Education Program
Summary of 2017 Activities
Supported by the CEO SleepOut
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1. Introduction

The Steve Biko Foundation (SBF) is a community development organization inspired by the legacy of the late anti-apartheid activist. Its vision is to be the premier independent promoter of the values that Steve Biko lived and died for: restoring people to their true humanity. Recognizing the link between economic realities and human dignity, SBF seeks to empower individuals and communities to develop sustainable livelihoods through education and training initiatives. The Foundation’s approach is underpinned by the principle of self-reliance and aims to assist in diminishing degrees of uncertainty and vulnerability in the lives of the economically disadvantaged. It is toward this aspect of its work that SBF would like to utilize the proceeds of the CEO SleepOut, specifically, to facilitate the following programs at the Steve Biko Centre in the King William’s Town region of the Eastern Cape:

- Youth Dialogues;
- Abelusi Arts & Culture Training;
- The Business Incubator, Enterprise Development Training; and
- Continuing Education through the Library and Educational Resources Centre.

2. International Dialogue Series—Five Youth Dialogues

Fundamental to the work of the Foundation is the International Dialogue Series. The series contributes substantively to the goals of the Steve Biko Foundation by:

- Promoting leadership;
- Stimulating critical debate;
- Creating platforms for intergenerational dialogue;
- Bridging the gap between academia and civil society;
- Linking local issues with the Diaspora and the international community at large; and
- Generating content for publications and informing research.

As part of the International Dialogue Series, during 2017 the Foundation will conduct a series of five (5) Youth Dialogues focusing on local and global socio-economic issues. The Dialogue Series will convene dynamic young participants from all walks of life, ensuring robust conversations which will unearth new ideas and innovative solutions to some of the challenges identified in SBF’s research. Among possible topics for discussion are:

- Biko Today;
- Education in South Africa;
- Gender Equality;
- Global Experiences in Youth Development;
- Identity;
- Indigenous Languages in South African Life;
- Youth Activism;
Youth Unemployment.

SBF estimates that 500 young people will physically participate in the dialogues, while 300,000 others will be reached through broadcast partners TruFM, a national youth radio station, as well as Fort FM, the University of Fort Hare’s frequency.

As in the case of its existing dialogue programs, SBF anticipates that the initiative will serve as a platform for young people to engage one another on the challenges they face in order to inspire each other to be change agents. Additionally, through the dialogues, SBF will contextualize socio-economic issues so that youth—and individuals interested in youth affairs—may be better informed about the resources and opportunities that are available.

Young people who have participated in other SBF dialogue programs (FrankTalk being a leading one based in Gauteng) have noted the positive impact of the dialogue initiatives, stating:

“Having attended FrankTalk for the first time (June 2015), I am so upset that I’ve missed out on the opportunity to talk to people my age about the issues even I’ve noted as a young person. Not having an outlet leaves you bitter sometimes – and addressing those issues with leadership – especially economic ones, allows you to move on from the anger to action.”

Innocent, 24 years old

“FrankTalk really helps to frame some discussions. Like the transformation in universities topic, it really opened my mind to what our kids are exposed to in lecture halls. I felt helpless afterwards, but I understood better.”

Moliehi, 56 years old

“Being in a radio studio for the first time was exciting. I also got to say something – my friends say they heard it. I was nervous, but I really needed to make people understand that as a learner, older people don’t take us seriously a lot of the time.”

Thamsanqa, 18 years old

3. Arts and Culture Training

The second program that will be supported by the CEO SleepOut is SBF’s Arts and Culture Skills Development portfolio, which empowers youth to actively shape and convey a positive sense of self through social history and the arts. It promotes the link between identity, agency and social action, while developing role models and fostering peer learning. The objectives of the Arts and Culture Training portfolio are as follows:

- Provision of foundational training in the arts, entrepreneurship and digital literacy; in order to prepare trainees for further and higher educational endeavours and/or professional practice;
- Develop and implement an innovative curriculum and training to meet market demands; and
- Build a conducive artistic environment by creating bridges between divergent societies, cultures and artistic mediums as a social force.
3.1 Steve Biko Foundation Performing Arts Corps – Abelusi

Using the performing arts as a vehicle to constructively engage local youth, the Foundation developed the Abelusi Performing Arts Corps in 2010. Through experiential learning and traditional training methods, the intervention targets out-of-school youth in King William’s Town, a peri-urban locale with limited youth development opportunities. Since the inception of the program, SBF has ensured robust programming which offers young, emerging artists exposure to global trends as well as the core skills required to be self-reliant practitioners.

Abelusi, “Shepherds” in isiXhosa, range from the ages of 18 to 30; they either train or perform five days a week at the Centre. The Abelusi curriculum entails:

- English Language Training;
- Creative Writing;
- Basic and Advanced Computer Courses;
- Entrepreneurship Training; as well as
- Presentation and Facilitation Training.

In order to join Abelusi, candidates are required to go through a rigorous audition and application process. During the process, the Foundation is able to ascertain levels of competency, both in the arts discipline and in professional etiquette and understanding. At the conclusion of the 18-month training program, participants are well equipped to pursue professional opportunities or further their studies.

To further enhance the offering of the program, some of the funding from the SleepOut will be allocated toward accrediting the Abelusi curriculum.

3.2 Abelusi Community Outreach

The Foundation has developed a vibrant outreach program, utilising its original productions, Abelusi’s facilitation skills and educational materials to support learning in classrooms, community groups and institutions such as correctional facilities.

The Schools Outreach initiative assists learners whose schools do not have arts and culture programs while it offers Abelusi the opportunity to practise their facilitation skills. On a weekly basis, trained Abelusi - under staff supervision - conduct performing arts classes at local schools in order to afford learners an opportunity to interact meaningfully with the arts.

In addition to a dynamic Schools Outreach campaign, the Arts and Culture department has also identified a need extend its outreach offering to other groups and centres in the community. This aspect of the outreach program focuses mainly on performing original SBF productions at other community hubs in the region. The productions address and educate on immediate community challenges.
The play *Voices of Women*, for example, addresses Gender Based Violence as well as child abuse. Utilising music and dance to sensitize audiences to the negative effects domestic violence has on entire communities. At the conclusion of the play, audiences are given an opportunity to voice their opinions on how best to address some of the situations depicted through interactive dialogue.

Additionally, Educational Materials are distributed to audiences in order to reinforce the messages relayed during the performances.

During 2017, the period in which SBF will utilize the funds provided by the CEO SleepOut, ten (10) Abelusi will be trained, while 3,000 community members will benefit from training and performances.

4. Economic Justice: The Business Incubator

In addition to the aforementioned programs, the funds from the CEO SleepOut will also support The Business Incubator (TBI), which addresses the needs of Small, Micro and Medium Enterprises as well as those of aspiring entrepreneurs. TBI’s primary focus is supporting SMMEs and emergent entrepreneurs. It is driven by the following objectives:

- Enabling entrepreneurs to explore their ideas and to facilitate implementation in an unintimidating environment;
- Contributing to the development of an entrepreneurial culture and to inspire a spirit of self-reliance;
- Assisting in the development of sustainable business initiatives;
- Serving as a platform for similar and complimentary interventions for the benefit of the local community; and
- Employing best practices from South Africa and the international community in the pursuit of these objectives.

To achieve its mandate, the Business Incubator offers four primary services to its constituents:

1. *Advisory Services* are provided by program officers who assist clients with researching business ideas, developing business plans and identifying funding opportunities.

2. *Company Registrations*, namely cooperatives, private companies and non-profit organizations, are facilitated by TBI staff.

3. *Access to Information* is provided via a designated computer lab for TBI patrons (distinctive from the Community Media Centre referenced in 5.2). This is an essential service as there are no other venues in the Ginsberg or King William’s Town areas in which community members can access the internet free of charge.
4. **Training and Skills Development** opportunities are offered through TBI on a regular basis. These two hour workshops focus on topics such as forms of business ownership, costing & pricing and customer care.

In addition to these training opportunities, SBF facilitates its own accredited curriculum which focuses on entrepreneurship.

During 2017, approximately 1,500 people will be served by The Business Incubator.

5. **Library & Educational Resource Centre**

The final area which will be supported by the CEO SleepOut funds is SBF’s Library and Educational Resources Centre (LERC), which is designed to promote a culture of life-long learning among its 1,500 constituents. The specific components of the LERC that will be supported are:

- The Main Library and Archive;
- The Community Media Centre; and
- The Satellite Community Learning Centre

5.1 The Main Library and Archive

The Main Library and Archive consists of a collection of over 20,000 publications, which are utilized by members of the local community as well as tertiary students from Walter Sisulu University, the University of Fort Hare and Rhodes University. Additionally, SBF frequently hosts international students and scholars researching African history and heritage as well as development studies at large. The funding will support the daily operations of the Library as well as the Matric Rewrite and Adult Basic Education and Training courses offered by the Foundation.

5.2 The Community Media Centre

Another critical element of the LERC is the Community Media Centre, which houses 25 computers utilized by SBF and third party entities for training. In addition to training Abelusi and local youth in basic computer skills, SBF has partnered with Dream Weavers, a Community Based Organisation that specialises in offering computer training to youth with disabilities to prepare them for the workplace.

6. **Timeline and Budget**

The programs outlined above will take place during 2017, with all funds being expended by December 2017, with approximately 6,500 individuals directly participating while an additional 300,000 will benefit from the broadcast element. To achieve these goals, the allocation of funds is as follows:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROGRAMME</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YOUTH DIALOGUES</td>
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<tr>
<td>ABELUSI ARTS &amp; CULTURE TRAINING</td>
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<td>THE BUSINESS INCUBATOR</td>
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<td>LIBRARY &amp; EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE</td>
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<td>ADMINISTRATION @ 9.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>R 3,000,000.00</strong></td>
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7. Conclusion

The Steve Biko Foundation is appreciative of the support of the CEO SleepOut Trust and looks forward to the impact this partnership will have on youth in the Eastern Cape region.

Should further information be required, please contact:

Y. Obenewa Amponsah  
CEO  
Steve Biko Foundation  
P.O. Box 32005, Braamfontein, 2017  
O: 011.403.0310  
M: 074.102.4466  
E: oamponsah@sbf.org.za

Or

Mr. Bruce Waters  
Operations Manager  
Steve Biko Foundation  
P.O. Box 32005, Braamfontein, 2017  
O: 011.403.0310  
M: 082.954.8670  
E: bruce@sbf.org.za