



IOL

Search IOL



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 2023



NEWS ▾

LIFESTYLE ▾

BUSINESS ▾

SPORT ▾

IOL TV

MORE ▾

FEATURES ▾

NEWSPAPERS ▾

SUBSCRIBE

CAPETIMES NEWS

## SA's iconic beaded flag gets a facelift



The flag's restoration project was led by the Constitutional Court Trust's curatorial team responsible for the CCAC.

Published Nov 7, 2023



Written by  
Staff Reporter

### You may like

**Sandton student, 21, arrested for horrific rape and murder of Joburg teacher Kirsten Kluyts**

By Jonisayi Maromo | Published 13h ago



**Alleged robber found with new clothes worth R50,000 and money after fatal cash-in-transit robbery**

By Jonisayi Maromo | Published 4h ago



**Husband charged for KZN Reverend Liezel de Jager's murder**

By Se-Anne Rall | Published 13h ago



### Read next

**Drinking spree ends in tragedy as boyfriend is killed by an allegedly love rival**

By Jonisayi Maromo | Published 15h ago



SHARE



**The intricate restoration and development of a new hanging mechanism has been completed on the large beaded South African flag that has hung in the main chamber of the Constitutional Court for 18 years.**

The 6.2m x 2.5m beaded flag is a prominent work in the Constitutional Court Art Collection (CCAC), cared for by the Constitutional Court. Its restoration was enabled by a grant from the Bank of America Art Conservation Project.

The flag's vibrant colours are reflected through intricate designs of hand-stitched embroidery and beadwork.

Originally crafted in 2005 by a collective of mostly women beadwork artists from the African Art Centre in Durban – Hlengiwe Dube, Leonie Malherbe, Ntombi Agnes Mbatha, Thobani Mbatha, Ntombifikile Greta Nkosi, Sphindile Nkosi and Zibuyisile Pretty Zulu – its creation required months of intensive labour to create separate beaded panels of the flag, meticulously stitched together, ultimately aiming to portray unity through diversity.

The flag's restoration project was led by the Constitutional Court Trust's curatorial team responsible for the CCAC. It was undertaken at the Constitutional Court in collaboration with one of the flag's original artists, Dube and her assistant, Phumelele Dladla, and involved cleaning and the repair of loose beads and threads.

The introduction of a new Velcro hanging mechanism to counter sagging and wrinkles was executed by the team at Mark Sinoff Exhibits, who also helped with the artwork's deinstallation and reinstallation.

"For the restoration, we reinforced all of the beads with new cotton, we cleaned the flag and placed new stitching to secure the work to its lining.

"We feel happy that this amazing example of the South African flag can continue to be seen behind the justices' bench for many

years to come," Uude said.

The collaboration has also enabled valuable knowledge sharing on the conservation and preservation of South African beaded artworks.

CCAC curator Bahlakoana Lesemane said the flag was an important and internationally recognisable artwork in the Constitutional Court Art Collection. The project marks Bank of America's second collaboration with the Constitutional Court Trust.

The bank provided funding to conserve the Marlene Dumas 28-metre tapestry, *The Benefit of the Doubt*, in 2019.



*After 18 years, South Africa's iconic beaded flag in the Constitutional Court has undergone intricate restoration, thanks to the Bank of America Art Conservation Project, preserving its vibrant hand-stitched designs and promoting unity through diversity.*

The projects have been supported through Bank of America's Art Conservation Project, which provides funding to non-profit cultural institutions around the world to conserve historically or culturally significant works of art.



*South Africa's iconic beaded flag in the Constitutional Court has undergone intricate restoration, thanks to the Bank of America Art Conservation Project, preserving its vibrant hand-stitched designs.*

According to Francois Lion-Cachet, CCAC curator of public engagement, both these artworks that have been restored carry national importance in their representation of the values contained in South Africa's Constitution.

#### Cape Times

RELATED TOPICS:

CONSTITUTIONAL COURT ARTISTS

SHARE



## Subscribe and Win

Subscribe to our daily newsletter to get your news delivered directly to your inbox and win your share of R5000!

T's and C's apply

☐ I'm not a robot

reCAPTCHA  
Privacy - Terms

SUBSCRIBE

