

UMKHUMBANE MUSEUM

Address: 2 Kalanden Road Cato Manor
Ward: 101
Client: eThekweni Libraries & Heritage
Contract Period: June 2014 - April 2016
Contract Value: R66. 8 million

The city's Economic Development Unit together with the Parks, Recreation and Culture Department, and the then Cato Manor Development Association identified Umkhumbane as an ideal location to develop a heritage centre which would offer a unique and iconic facility presenting the history of Cato Manor in a way which will undoubtedly resonate with other areas where forced removals and displacement occurred. Places in South Africa like District Six, Sophiatown, and Weenen. 100 years after the passing of the 1913 Native Land Act it seems the impact of these removals remains as significant as ever.

Some of the first project reports responding to the heritage project were compiled in 2003 and an architectural competition laid the foundation for the appointment of the professional team. Central to the design by Choromanski Architects, the master plan incorporated the vision of a heritage facility integrated with commercial concession spaces within walking distance residential areas and at the crossing of the main routes of Vusi Mzimele Rd (ex Bellair) and Harry Gwala Rd (ex Booth).

This project is co-funded by Lotto and eThekweni Municipality and the University of KwaZulu-Natal donated the land. The site is also significant as it was chosen by King Goodwill Zwelithini for the reburial of the remains of his late mother Queen Thomozile Emmelda Ndwandwe Zulu.

