# Pan afrikan design week.26

**21-24 October 2026 | Workshop17 | V&A Waterfront | Cape Town | South Africa**
**PUBLIC PROGRAMME**

# How do we design to thrive?

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The main conference takes place over three days, from Wednesday 21 October to Friday 23 October 2026, followed by a Networking Event Friday evening and wider cultural and community-based experiences on Saturday 24 October 2026.

**MC & Moderator:** Mandisa Mbaligontsi
**Programme Director:** Suné Stassen

## Programme Journey

| DAY | FOCUS | CORE QUESTIONS |
|---|---|---|
| Day 1 | Afrika in relation to itself and the world | How do we design to thrive in an Afrikan context? |
| Day 2 | Designing for thriving across sectors and ecosystems | How do our choices and collaborations create responsible ripple effects? |
| Day 3 | Future-fit education and human development<br>Evening - Networking Event | What must education be if we want to develop future-fit skills and confident future-builders? What type of people do we need to develop? |
| Day 4 | Uthando SA Community & Cultural Impact Tour | What can we learn from impactful community projects creating meaningful value with limited resources? |

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Day 1 - Wednesday, 21 October 2026

# Afrika in Relation to Itself and the World

Day 1 opens the continental and global conversation by asking how Afrika sees itself, how the world sees Afrika, and how design and creative intelligence can help reframe identity, trust, dignity, cultural wisdom and value in order to thrive.

| TIME | 21 OCTOBER 2026: DAY ONE PROGRAMME |
|---|---|
| 08:00-08:40 | Registration |
| 08:40-09:10 | PADI Fellowship / Simba Club Induction |
| 09:20-09:30 | **Welcome Address by** *Mrs Gugu Motlanthe* |
| 09:35-09:50 | Opening Performance |
| 10:00-10:45 | **Opening Keynote: Designing to Thrive - Afrikan Futures and the World**<br>*Dr Njeri Mwagiru* |
| 10:50-11:35 | **Keynote: Trust as Infrastructure for Thriving**<br>*Dominic Wilhelm*<br>*Why trust is essential for resilient communities, meaningful partnerships and courageous collaboration.* |
| 11:35-11:45 | **COMFORT BREAK** |
| 11:45-12:45 | **Dialogue 1: Indigenous Wisdom, Cultural Memory, Dignity and Design Value**<br>*Saki Mafundikwa, Dr Russell Kennedy and Juliet Kavishe*<br>A dialogue on identity, dignity, cultural memory, Indigenous design codes, visual language and Afrikan design value. |
| 12:45-13:45 | **LUNCH** |
| 13:55-14:55 | **Dialogue 2: Community-Rooted Innovation, Regenerative Tourism and Place-Based Impact**<br>*Henry Mathys, James Fernie and Thulani Nxumalo*<br>*Community-rooted stories connecting placemaking, regenerative tourism, dignity, local opportunity and lived impact.* |
| 15:05-15:50 | **DISA–PADI Imbizo: How Do We Design to Thrive in a South African Context?**<br>*A participatory conversation hosted by DISA and PADI, with contributions from board members, speakers and the audience.* |
| 16:00-18:00 Workshop Venue | **WORKSHOP: Future Design Brief Lab: Reframing Afrika for a Thriving Future**<br>***Delegates and wider public***<br>**Workshop facilitators:** *Mandisa Mbaligontsi, Suné Stassen & Nthakoana Maema*<br>A practical workshop exploring a shared design brief for a thriving Afrika. |

Day 2 - Thursday, 22 October 2026

# Designing for Thriving Across Sectors & Ecosystems

Day 2 explores how design, creativity and collaboration can create ripple effects across sectors, systems and communities - unlocking wider value through local ideas, social-impact initiatives, regenerative economies and more.

| TIME | 22 OCTOBER 2026: DAY TWO PROGRAMME |
|---|---|
| 08:45-09:40 | Registration |
| 09:40-09:50 | **Reflection from Day 1 Workshop**<br>*A concise sharing of key outputs from the first workshop.* |
| 09:50-10:00 | **Day 2 Framing:** The Ripple Effect |
| 10:00-10:45 | **Opening Keynote: Systems Change and Inclusive Entrepreneurship**<br>*Nthakoana Maema*<br>*A keynote connecting food systems, social-impact innovation, systems thinking and inclusive entrepreneurship.* |
| 10:50-11:35 | **Featured Session: Designing Third Spaces, Urban Thinking and Community Belonging**<br>*Tiisetso Mofokeng*<br>*A session on community development, urban thinking, third spaces, agency and design for belonging.* |
| 11:35-12:00 | **COMFORT BREAK** |
| 12:10-13:10 | **Dialogue 3: Women-Led Enterprise, Place, Pride and Social Impact**<br>*Onica Lekuntwane and Lucinda Evans*<br>*A dialogue on women-led enterprise, creativity, heritage, social impact, safety, dignity and community empowerment.* |
| 13:10-14:10 | **LUNCH** |
| 14:20–15:05 | **Case Study Dialogue: Creative Collaboration, Social Impact and Early Book Access**<br>*Thembalethu Shangase, Arthur Attwell, Dr Diane Awerbuck, Subi Bosa and Mmamuso Makhanya*<br>How writers, illustrators, designers, editors and literacy partners collaborate to expand access to high-quality books for young children. |
| 15:12–15:30 | **Rapid Synthesis: The Ripple Effect - Designing Beyond the Immediate User**<br>*An interactive reflection inviting in-person and online audiences to connect the day's key ideas, share new insights and questions, and consider their wider ripple effects across people, communities and systems.* |
| 16:00–18:00<br>Workshop Venue | **WORKSHOP: The Ripple Effect Lab: Designing Impact Beyond the Immediate User**<br>***Delegates and wider public***<br>**Workshop facilitators:** *Mandisa Mbaligontsi, Suné Stassen & Nthakoana Maema*<br>A practical workshop exploring the wider ripple effects of our decisions and how to design more responsible interventions with significance and meaning at the core — creating value beyond the immediate user or consumer for wider communities, systems and ecosystems. |

Day 3 - Friday, 23 October 2026

# Future-Fit Education and Human Development

Day 3 asks what kind of humans and learning ecosystems we need to develop a confident society of future-builders who can shape thriving futures for people and planet.

| TIME | 23 OCTOBER 2026: DAY THREE PROGRAMME |
|---|---|
| 08:45-09:30 | Registration |
| 09:30-09:40 | Reflection from the Day 2 Workshop |
| 09:40-09:50 | **Day 3 Framing:** Future-Fit Education and Human Development |
| 09:50-09:55 | **Video Provocation: Think Future - Building Resilience in Children**<br>*Video screening* |
| 10:00-10:45 | **Opening Keynote: Future-Fit Humans, Creative Intelligence and Education Through Design -** *Dr Rael Futerman*<br>*A keynote on future-fit education, Creative Intelligence, youth development, participatory learning and human capability.* |
| 10:45-11:10 | **COMFORT BREAK** |
| 11:20-12:05 | **Featured Session: ECD & Primary: STEAM Education, Creative Confidence and MyMachine SA**<br>*Suné Stassen*<br>*How STEAM and creative learning through play nurture children's creative confidence to imagine, innovate and execute — brought to life through MyMachine SA as a practical case study — a collaboration between primary school children and university students.* |
| 12:10-12:55 | **Featured Session: Tertiary Education**<br>*Robin Turner*<br>*Ethical Fieldwork, Empathy, Service and Community Learning - The 10% Project* |
| 12:55–13:55 | **LUNCH** |
| 14:05–14:50 | **Closing Keynote: Learning from Nature - Biomimicry, Future Skills and the Conditions for Life to Thrive**<br>*Jess Berliner* |
| 14:50–15:30 | **CLOSING REFLECTIONS & COMFORT BREAK BEFORE WORKSHOP** |
| 15:30-17:45 Workshop Venue | **WORKSHOP: Future-Builders Lab: Redesigning Learning for a Thriving Future**<br>**Workshop facilitators:** *Mandisa Mbaligontsi & Suné Stassen*<br>An extended workshop exploring future-fit skills, learning shifts and the experiences needed to develop future-builders. |
| 18:00-21:00 | **Closing Networking Event - Conference Venue**<br>*Delegates and members of the wider public welcome*<br>An informal evening of connection. Enjoy a welcome drink and canapés, with a cash bar available on site. The evening will also feature live performances by talented performers from our Cape Town communities. |

# AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS & BOOKINGS

**Workshop facilitators:** *Mandisa Mbaligontsi, Suné Stassen & Nthakoana Maema*

| | |
|---|---|
| **Wed 21 Oct 16:00–18:00** | **Future Design Brief Lab: Reframing Afrika for a Thriving Future** |

*Define what a thriving Afrika should or could look and feel like, identify the potential and desirably outcomes, and explore the collective shape of a potential design brief for the conditions, priorities and actions needed to help deliver that future.*

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|---|---|
| **Thu 22 Oct 16:00–18:00** | **The Ripple Effect Lab: Designing Impact Beyond the Immediate User** |

*Explore how to design with intentional impact, greater responsibility and meaning by defining the emotions you want to ignite and understanding the wider ripple effects your product, service or system may create.*

| | |
|---|---|
| **Fri 23 Oct 15:30–17:45** | **Future-Builders Lab: Redesigning Learning for a Thriving Future** |

*Define the future-fit humans we need to develop, then shape a shared design brief for learning that builds the skills, agency and responsibility needed to navigate change and contribute meaningfully to a thriving future.*

*Workshops may be booked separately — you do not need to attend the full conference to participate. All three workshops are included in the **Full Experience Pass**, but **places must still be reserved in advance** as capacity is limited. Workshop bookings and reservation information are available through Quicket.*

# ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCES & IMPORTANT BOOKING INFORMATION

## CLOSING NETWORKING EVENT

**23 OCT**
**18:00-21:00**

**End the three-day conference with an informal evening of connection, bringing together delegates, partners, creatives, entrepreneurs, students and members of the wider public.**
An informal evening of connection. Enjoy a welcome drink and canapés, with a cash bar available on site. The evening will also feature live performances by talented performers from our Cape Town communities.

**Included in all 3-Day Conference Passes and Full Experience Passes.** Separate Networking Event tickets are available on Quicket for day-ticket holders and members of the public.

## COMMUNITY & CULTURAL IMPACT TOUR WITH UTHANDO SOUTH AFRICA

**24 OCT**
**09:00-13:00**

Take **"How Do We Design to Thrive?"** beyond the conference venue and into real community contexts. Hosted by Uthando South Africa, this hands-on experience connects participants with local entrepreneurs, community leaders and social-impact projects in under-resourced communities, offering an opportunity to see how creativity, resilience and community-rooted innovation are creating meaningful value, strengthening dignity and improving lives on the ground.

The participation fee also contributes directly to the community projects visited through Uthando South Africa's model.

**Spaces are limited and advance booking is essential. Tickets available on Quicket.**

**COLLECTION & DROP-OFF:**
**09:00: Pickup at Conference Venue, Watershed, Workshop 17, V&A Waterfront**
**13:00: Latest drop-off at Watershed, V&A Waterfront**

*Programme times, speakers and details are subject to change. Please follow Pan Afrikan Design Institute on social media and visit Quicket for the latest updates.*