



a world class African city

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**MEDIA RELEASE
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**STATE OF READINESS FOR THE RELOCATION SITES OF THE CITY TO HOST
THE JAG COLLECTION**

The City of Johannesburg reassures the public and the art community that all necessary measures are being taken to ensure the proper care and security of the Johannesburg Art Gallery (JAG) collection during its relocation and refurbishment process. Despite concerns raised by certain stakeholders, the City emphasises that extensive consultations have been conducted and decisions are made in alignment with its authority and responsibilities. We note with dismay the false statements on the state of readiness of the relocation sites.

The JAG Relocation and Refurbishment Plan comprise of three key components: (a) temporary relocation of the JAG collection to enable (b) refurbishment of the JAG building and (c) development of a comprehensive JAG Strategy, including revised governance, operational and financial models.

The City is committed to expediting the implementation of the relocation and refurbishment plan with due consideration to the requirements of the relevant statutory bodies while maintaining international museum standards for security and storage conditions during the temporary relocation of the JAG collection.

Museum Afrika has been identified as one of the temporary relocation sites and is currently being retrofitted to meet the required storage standards. The City has addressed concerns raised by stakeholders, incorporating their inputs where applicable and has as such committed to keeping the public informed of progress through regular updates on social media.

The refurbishment work at the relocation site is nearing completion, with state-of-the-art climate and humidity control regulated through technology, advanced security features in response to a comprehensive security and risk assessment report inclusive of biometric access systems in place. To protect the integrity of the security upgrades, the City has indicated that the full detail of security features will not be revealed.

The City has opted for City-owned facilities to safeguard the JAG collection and ensure compliance with municipal policies and legislative requirements. The decision to upgrade City facilities is also intended to comply with insurance requirements and to invest in the upgrade of its own facilities. The City has regular engagements with

regulatory bodies such as South African Heritage Resources Agency (SAHRA), the Provincial Heritage Resources Agency (PHRA) and the Art Gallery Committee (AGC) to ensure adherence to aspects of the JAG plan as it relates to their respective mandates.

The City also highlights that, despite scepticism expressed when the Executive Mayor announced the completion of the Joburg City Library, we successfully delivered all phases of the project within record timeframes. A similar approach will be applied to the JAG project.

The City remains committed to transparency and consultations in its quest to ensure the successful execution of the JAG Relocation and Refurbishment Plan. The City also wishes to state that it takes into account a diversity of views, inputs and professional guidance in making its decision and that these decisions will not always be what the Friends of JAG (FoJ) and Johannesburg Heritage Foundation (JHF) wish to dictate.

The City remains open to collaboration with various stakeholders and funders, providing their inputs and donations to this project comply with the Municipal Finance Management Act and other relevant legislation.

For more information, please see links on the progress and upgrades on security and climate control at Museum Afrika:

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