



Projects Abroad



October 2013



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Letter from the Editor

Fun in Sun! That is what this beautiful month has brought us.

From loads of outdoor activities this month has been a prosperous month that has truly out shined itself, and yes I am speaking literally and metaphorically. The Sounds of the World project started the month with a cultural flare, bringing a new experience to the Projects Abroad experience. The Sounds of the World has just started this year and has its website up and amazing feedback.

The building project has also bloomed this month as the sun attracts more volunteers to join the building project. The building project has received excellent feedback from a past volunteer Laura Briggs that explains her memorable experience in South Africa and that has benefitted her studies and career. We are also looking forward to the 2014 World Design Capital showcase on the building project, which is a truly great achievement that reflects the great work that has been done at the project.

Enjoy this month's newsletter!



Vash Singh
Information Manager/
Editor

Volunteer experience | A Memorable Building Experience - Laura Briggs

In South Africa, we are all about family and friendship. Many volunteers arrive and leave, but they never forget the warmth and love shown by 'our rainbow nation'. Here are some beautiful words sent in a letter from a past building volunteer from the UK (Laura Briggs) to Building Project Manager Deen Singh:

Dear Deen

I hope this letter finds you well. I just wanted to write to say that I think of you and those at the Building Project often and I hope everything is going well and everyone is ok. The time I spent on the building project was one of the happiest times of my life. I take the happy memories with me everywhere, and it helped make me the person I am today.

I feel very proud of what we are achieving. I wish I could come back and help some more. One day I will.

I think of the last week of my time in South Africa a lot, it always makes me sad that something like that happened. I hated that I had to leave on the Saturday, when it felt that everyone should be together supporting each other. On the day of the funeral I had a little memorial along the river in my village back home; it helped me feel like I was with everyone in spirit. I hope that the community is recovering and that Bernie, Eddie and Tanya are ok.

Looking at the photos that you put on Facebook always makes me smile, as does looking back over the ones from when I was there.

I have just started my second year of medicine at uni, it's difficult but I enjoy it. It makes me happy that I am getting closer to being a doctor and being able to help people. I would be really grateful if you could pass the enclosed note on to Bernie, Edward and Tanya.

I hope the project continues to go brilliantly and I send my love, thoughts and prayers to everyone.



Heritage Day Special I Volunteers helping the community

Projects Abroad Building Project Manager Deen Singh and his building volunteers were very kindly invited to attend a Heritage Day event organised by **Councillor Shaun August**

(Portfolio Chairperson: Utility Services & Ward Councillor for the City of Cape Town) held at Italy Sports Field in Seawinds, Cape Town. Building Manager Deen Singh felt that this is a privileged and honour for Projects Abroad building volunteers to personally be invited to this event. Taking full advantage of the great exposure that Project Abroad and its volunteers can have on this day, Deen Singh opened the invitation to all volunteers and staff to this event. Surprisingly volunteers from the other projects joined the building volunteers to make a huge difference as the only volunteering organisation on 'Heritage day' to the many disadvantaged children that attended the event.

'Water slides, face painting, jumping castles, dog show, braai and just absolute fun were on the itinerary for the day'! This is what the building manager Deen Singh as to say:

'A Big Thank you to: the Journalism volunteers (Iman Aziz, Sille Borg, Marie Marchal, Frederique Talbot, James Dinsmore and Clara Lundberg), Teaching volunteer (Martha Benum), Care volunteer (Lieka Fabries), Human rights volunteers (Line Kappel and Leonie van Bruggen) and the Building volunteers (Tony Delubre, Anika Ernsting, Martin Deuez, Steffi Martin and Svenja Willmes) for taking such good care and playing with the children on this day and most of all your contribution to sponsoring the meat for the underprivileged families that attended this event!. Desiree and Tyrin Landsman for transporting the many volunteers and staff to and fro to the venue on this day we really to appreciate you guys doing this on a public holiday.'

-Deen Singh

Here is some feedback from the volunteers that attended this memorable day.

'My day at the Italian Sports Club in Village Heights, Lavender Hill was an interesting experience that I am very appreciative for. It was an eye-opening experience to see how the kids lived and their excitement for everything was very overwhelming for me. The Braai was delicious and I had a really good time.'

-Iman Aiziz

'An unforgettable Heritage day! Yesterday was interesting because we could meet children and share a good time with them, and I could appreciate how available and caring the team was towards the children. The best moment was to share our Braai with the kids.'

- Frederique Talbot

'The exuberance of the children was matched only by the sweltering heat of the summer sun. The juveniles were ecstatic at the prospect of having the opportunity to frolic upon the inflatable rubber castles. On top of their enjoyment was the true pleasure of exquisitely prepared "Braai". I had a remarkably enlightening experience when I sampled a piece of the freshly char grilled poultry and had a near-heavenly culinary epiphany when the perfectly-spiced sausage hit my eagerly patient taste buds. So, yeah, it was pretty fun, I guess.'

-James Dinsmore

'It was chaos but fun. Children were so excited & we were to. The sun, castles, face-painting and music turned this day into a beautiful Braai day.'

-Marie Marchal

'I had an exciting and educational Heritage day. The combination of sun, music, activities and excited kids were fantastic. I wish we had events like this in my country, where people of all ages can gather and have fun together.'

-Clara Lundberg

Please check out facebook with the awesome photos of our volunteers and staff on this day!



Sounds of the World | Bringing music and culture to Projects Abroad

There has been a lot of talk around the office about the Sounds of the World project and now it is finally here. The project has just started up, but this is just a basic rundown of what exciting things to expect in the future.

So the main question for this project is: 'What is Sounds of the World?'

That will be the first question to answer, and the answer is not as simple. The answer would be that 'Sounds of the World' is a cultural initiative by Projects Abroad, the leading volunteering organization. The main goal of this initiative is to support local talent to enhance cultural exchange all over the world and with it, promotion for the local music.

The main benefit of a band/solo artist with participating with 'Sounds of the World' is that it is free and self-funded. Staff members are working consistently on the promotion of their music through social media campaigns and other online tools using an outstanding international presence. It is present in 5 countries at this point, and more to come. Hoping to extend to as many countries where Projects Abroad is present (more than 25). 'Sounds of the World' offers minor support for participating bands (e.g. printing their flyers for the next show, running a small quiz and offer gifts like free entrances or a shirt to audience). 'Sounds of the World' also provides international coverage for the news, reviews of shows, albums or singles for the bands/artists. This project also helps with a video edition of an introductory and exclusive interview, with all the costs totally absorbed by 'Sounds of the World'.



The 'Sounds of the World' project firmly believes that local music needs to be widely known and that is an excellent tool for cultural exchange. Projects Abroad is highly interested in enhancing cultural exchange and what a better way than music to do so. This way we work hard in making your music reachable to many people that otherwise would not have had the chance to hear your music. That is the engine that pushes the project forward.

This amazing project has kicked off with its influx of bands and artists which are eager to share their musical talent with the rest of the world. For more information and a look at the bands, join the website at <http://www.sounds-of-the-world.com/>



World Design Capital for the Building Project | A sneak peak for the future

We have all heard amazing things about the building project and how big it has grown throughout the years. The building project was approached by Daniel Sullivan (from Internal Initiatives World Design Capital 2014, City of Cape Town) who discussed the possibilities for the project in conjunction with the City of Cape Town to be showcased in the World Design Capital 2014. The Building Project has now been selected as one of the showcases for 2014. We all know about this great news but most of us do not know what the World Design Capital entails. I have gathered more information from their official website and here is a deeper insight for the World Design Capital:

So the main question is, 'What is the World Design Capital (WDC)?

The World Design Capital (WDC) is an initiative of the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (ICSID) and their initiative for the WDC to promote its city project management that celebrates the merits of design. This initiative seeks to highlight the accomplishments of cities that are truly leveraging design as a tool to improve the social, cultural and economic life of the cities, throughout a yearlong program of design-related events. For cities, design is at their very core and is utilized in business, with citizens, as well as in government to make cities more attractive, more livable and more efficient.

The WDC project seeks to maximize opportunities arising from multidisciplinary design collaboration. As such, the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design (ICSID) leads the World Design Capital program in a major step for the global design community.



Through the WDC, the ICSID aims to:

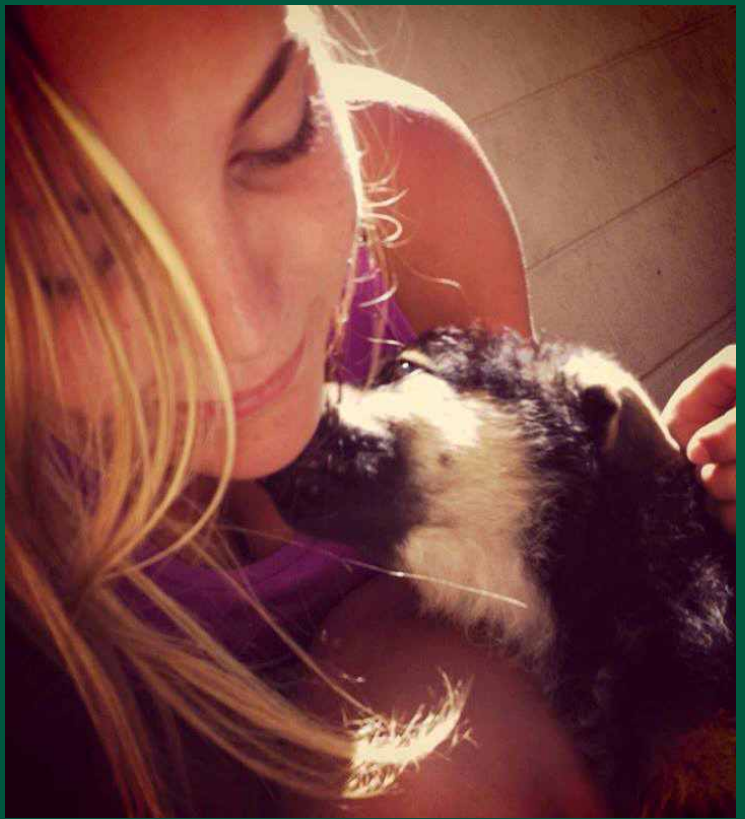
Recognize innovative cities for the use of design as an effective tool for social, cultural, environmental and economic development and therefore showcase a designated city and its achievements on the international forum. They wish to promote global understanding of design as an economic development tool and create an international network where cities and municipalities can learn and share innovative design programs and strategies. Present international examples for enhancing economic growth, innovation, public safety, quality of life and social interactions and promote outstanding education and research institutions in the field of design in which to share municipal design-led project between developed countries and emerging economies'.

We should all be proud that the City of Cape Town has been chosen has the WDC 2014 and the past cities were Helsinki 2012, Seoul 2010, Torino 2008 and Taipei working towards being WDC 2016. Watch this space for more update on Projects Abroad with partnership with the City of Cape Town's involvement in the WDC 2014.



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Enjoy this month's issue