

Jesse Laitinen, Khulisa Strategic Partnerships Manager



The recent SA Innovation Summit held in Cape Town taught me that most prosperous countries in the world pay attention both to economy and social issues, not just GDP. These countries tend to have a prolific *social economy*, i.e. *organisations that are not scared of tackling the toughest problems and passionate about finding ways to resolve them.*

Streetscapes' motto is turning problems into solutions. In this issue, I hope you enjoy reading about how our social auxiliary worker, Herbert, and his team succeeded doing just this in Long and Loop Street. And what Mercer University students think is the magic ingredient that makes Streetscapes innovative.

Innovation is more than creative ideas, it also requires an environment where ideas can connect. We're delighted that this 'space' in Cape Town has started to emerge. We celebrate confirmation of another 2 years partnership programme 'PEP', that in its first six months helped 600 people off the streets into rehabilitative programmes. The programme has been successful because we collaborate - Streetscapes together with 10 NPO partners, Treasury and the City of Cape Town.

German goldsmith Gutenberg probably couldn't have imagined that his printing press developed in 1440 would result in 200 million books being printed by 1600, unlocking the modern age and industrial revolution. Could we also be on the cusp of ending homelessness, but not know it yet? We hope so. May 600 PEP rehabilitative work opportunities become 5000. So that everyone in Cape Town could find a happy home.

Jesse

Whilst we hope you will enjoy our monthly newsletter to you, we also welcome your feedback on:

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Mercer on Mission reflects on what makes Streetscapes innovative

Harold Tessoroff and Myriam Quispe-Agnoli of US-based Mercer University are still struck by the clients, peers and employees they met and got to know on their visit to Streetscapes earlier this year. 'The first thing that I think about is Thembi Macata and her beautiful smile,' says Myriam. 'And her story of going from working in the gardens to now being in charge of the hydroponics and the Kuilsriver garden... She had a lot to learn but even with challenges, she always has this positive attitude.' This best sums up what makes things just so special at Streetscapes: it's about people first.



As part of their Mercer on Mission programme, a culturally immersive experience that combines study abroad with service learning, Harold and Myriam brought a small group of business, journalism, and engineering students from the university to Cape Town. Over the course of three weeks, the group was tasked with developing a study of practical recommendations for the Streetscapes team to scale the operation. 'In the study, we're looking at business processes and how to increase revenue and make those operations sustainable, but that was subordinate to ensuring that the Streetscapes mission of serving the homeless and serving more of them is front and foremost,' says Harold.

He compares the way Streetscapes works to a client-centred strategy in business: 'The customary approach in dealing with homelessness is to meet the housing needs first, which is driven a lot by the person who wants to help and their own agenda. But you've got to meet what the customer wants to have a truly successful product - that's what we teach our business students and that's what Streetscapes has figured out, what makes it innovative.' He goes on to say, 'Streetscapes taught us to rethink how we view homelessness.' (Continues...)

Mercer on Mission Continued...



Harold and Myriam recall one particular juxtaposition as they walked from a neighbouring coffee shop to the Roeland Street garden: ‘There was this contrast between people who are currently homeless at the bottom of the street, that sense of desperation, and Streetscapes up the hill, where everyone had the branded jacket on, they were productively engaged, a community. We thought, this is what it can look like, this is what community looks like. That’s innovation.’

As a result, the recommendations of the study focused on supporting Streetscapes’ people-first mentality while putting structure in place to help reach the lofty goals of scaling growth and deepening their impact in Cape Town, and the university looks forward to returning in 2023 with a new group of students in tow. ‘What Streetscapes is doing ties in beautifully with Mercer on Mission’s focus on supportive, genuine, global partnerships and research that reaches out.’

The Streetscapes x CCID bin project: a solution for cleaner city streets



With tourist season in full swing this season, we’re taking a look at one of our favourite innovations: the Streetscapes bin project in collaboration with the CCID. ‘This project started because there are always people rummaging through the local businesses’ bins or stealing them on Long and Loop, leaving a mess of litter on Cape Town’s golden streets,’ says Herbert November, a Social Auxiliary Worker at Streetscapes. To combat this, Herbert put together a task force to tidy things up for the city, resulting in better waste management, bin safety and litter prevention. The 12 member team now collects, guards and takes back bins daily for a growing number of shops and restaurants, and tidies the streets, ensuring cleanliness even when the city is at its busiest. ‘

Now, Herbert’s passed the reins of the operation on to his assistant, Clive, a client in the programme who’s proven he’s ready for the challenge. Today, Clive manages the day-to-day process and reporting. ‘It’s very exciting - I introduced Clive to the CCID and they’re very happy with his work. ‘What better way to do this than with people that have been on the streets before, empowering them to engage with the businesses,’ says Herbert. ‘Our guys can be part of the community. It’s building a bridge between the people on the street and businesses, so people can see we are all the same.’

Thembi’s October gardening tips



We chatted to Kuilsriver manager Thembi Macata on what’s good to grow now....

There’s no better time to sort out your veggie garden than now. Best of all, you don’t need to have green fingers to make this work but only be equipped with the correct garden information.

Fill up those beds with our wide variety of veggie seedlings for your summer harvest.

Our seedlings varieties are:

Spring onion	Green pepper	Lettuce	Beetroot	Chillies	
Leeks	Coriander	Beans	Cucumber	Fennel	
Brown onion	Sweet Basil	Kale	Zucchini	Flat Leaf Parsley	
Spinach	Flat leaf Parsley	Cabbage	Tomatoes	Marigold	(Continues...)

Thembi's tips Continued...



Get all these summer vegetables seedlings and herbs at our Roeland garden and Kuilsriver farms.

October tip: add a good amount of weed free organic compost to your beds as mulch to keep soil cool, lower evaporation, keep weeds under control and as a long-lasting feed to your seedlings.

Correct watering leads to strong and healthy plants. Water your plants at the base to promote a good and strong root system, DO NOT water the leaves, only water early in the morning and late afternoon when the temperatures are low.

Add herb seedlings in your flower beds, not just for extra colour but for the beautiful scent they bring into the garden which attracts pollinators and repels those insects attacking your perennials.

Streetscapes
streetscapes@khulisa.org.za
10 Kent Street, Zonnebloem, Cape Town, 7925
+27 87 163 2961

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