

2019 Submission for: Cape Town Tourism 'Social Impact Award'**Question 1:****What was the community need that your program/project met?**

To provide facilities and opportunities for (1) adult job seekers to improve their chances of getting employment and (2) to enhance the skills of employed persons to make them more competitive and to increase their chances of promotions and advancement at their workplaces.

For over 20 years, the Hout Bay Christian Community Association (HBCCA) has aimed to be a powerful force for social upliftment in the township of Imizamo Yethu. The 'Iziko Lobomi Centre', managed by the HBCCA, is an innovative facility that opened its doors as a 'Church cum Adult Training Centre' more than two decades ago.

From the very outset, the Iziko Lobomi Centre has catered to various needs of the Imizamo Yethu community; and yet, this Centre's most remarkable quality is its perpetually evolving nature. Instead of being static, it continually grows and refines its offerings, thereby adapting its services to address the ever-changing realities faced by the people whom it serves.

This ethos of continual renewal is embedded in its name – 'Iziko Lobomi' translates as 'Centre of Life'. It remains a place of hope and inspiration; it aims to simultaneously address subtle human needs of interaction and inclusivity, whilst catering to more tangible needs such as skills-development and access to nutrition. Iziko Lobomi addresses all of these multi-faceted challenges with feeding programmes, employment, job opportunities for local craftsmen and women and welfare services by dedicated and experienced personnel.

Since its inception, Iziko Lobomi has specifically focused upon skills-development, by way of the many training opportunities that we provide at the Centre. The first Computer Literacy training classes started within 3 years of the Centre's opening. Over time, this initiative has been improved to comprise a state-of-the-art Computer Training room, equipped with 12 computers (sponsored by Gartner SA), each with the latest software and 24-hour access to the Internet via a high-speed Wi-Fi broadband connection.

We live in a digital era, where connectivity to the internet is increasingly synonymous with socio-economic advancement. Iziko Lobomi is committed to ensure that Imizamo Yethu is empowered to harness this dynamic tool for expansion and education. In order to help the community embrace these rapidly shifting digital paradigms, we added two further facilities in 2018, thereby expanding our training offerings for young and old.

An underutilised room was refurbished to perform a dual function: it acts as a Play School for 30 children during the day and doubles up as a **Lecture Room** after hours. Another room was reconfigured into a **Learning Centre**, with study stations for 12 students. Two stations are equipped with desktop computers that have internet access.

The Centre also functions as a vital hub for a wide variety of community activities during the week and serves as a venue for many church functions after hours and over weekends.

We have also made numerous aesthetic upgrades to the Iziko Lobomi Centre and it now offers tourists an authentic yet beautiful glimpse into township life. Boasting a charming coffee shop, the Centre has become the “must-see” stop for over 2,000 foreign visitors that enjoy CitySightSeeing township walking tours. All of the proceeds derived from the Qunu Café and entry tickets are ploughed directly back into Iziko Lobomi, so as to ensure its financial viability in the long term.

Iziko Lobomi truly is ‘the community centre that never sleeps’.