

## **REPORT OF A MEETING HELD – 5 – 6 AUGUST 2014 AT WALTER SISULU UNIVERSITY (WSU)**

### **SESSION 1: VIEWING OF THE STORAGE BUILDING**

The following people went to view the storage building before the actual meeting took place as this was going to inform the way forward of the meeting.

1. Ms. June Hosford JH -Conservator commissioned by SAHRA
2. Mrs. Noluthando Mpeta NM– WSU- Library
3. Mrs. Vuyiswa Lusu VL – WSU – Library
4. Miss Nolitha Ngcai NN – SAHRA- HOU Declaration Officer
5. Mrs. Wethu Danster WD– WSU – Library was to join later as she was driving from East London to Mthatha (WSU).

The storage building has been built according to the recommendations or specifications made by JH. There are few things on the recommendations made that have not been met and as a result when JH meets with the Architects and the Director of Infrastructure and Facilities on 6<sup>th</sup> August these issues will be raised. The following are some of the changes that need to be done:

- ✓ Work surface- to have a flat table instead of the slanty one that has been built.
- ✓ Humidity should be kept stable
- ✓ Glass door needs to be changed or removed (leading to an office) that has to be used by staff should be a solid door, this is for security reasons as people will be able to see what is inside. It must be replaced by half solid door and may be half top could be a glass.
- ✓ Two toilets built one for males and the other one is unisex as it is a toilet for disabled people. The challenge with the male toilet is that it is open also it has a ceramic urinal basin and people going to the other toilet passing through can see what is happening there. For reason of health and privacy the door should be placed. The other factor was the hand washing basin which is on the unisex toilet.
- ✓ One or two plug points should be added on the other side of the wall for a vacuum cleaner etc.
- ✓ The workshop room have many built in cupboards with drawers of which some drawers have to be removed as it will be difficult for staff or researchers working there to sit with their knees bent. Furthermore, the computer points that have been put there.
- ✓ Built in tables should have with may be two – three drawers built for the staff that will be working in the storage building.

### **SESSION TWO – MEETING TO DISCUSS ITEMS ON THE AGENDA**

In the discussion Mrs. Danster joined the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was given by NN. The current condition of the collection was looked at, Ms. Hosford made it clear that she is not happy with the way the collection has been looked after. She stated that she did condition assessment report and made recommendations. The report was developed in 2009 but there has been little that has been implemented. She expressed her disappointment and further stated that the current condition of the collection requires that the whole process should be started afresh. This therefore means there is going to be some financial implications. The collection had been put at risk by the Inventory Unit when they were doing documentation and inventorising the collection. Both collections, Broster's and Dr. Lamla's were not handled properly and further that even the numbering was not done properly. Tags were flowing and some with big cotton straps which trapped the beads from other collection. As a result JH doubted whether the people who were involved in the project really had museum's background. Both collections had been mixed up and with different objects of which that is not acceptable according to museum practise. JH reported that WSU had done their work partly. JH agreed however, she stated clearly that VL should have advised SAHRA- Inventory Unit of the short term, medium and long terms recommendations done and further observe what the Inventory unit was doing. In all JH said she is going to start it afresh.

JH also asked about the accession register that Broster had but, VL said she tried to look for it but she did not get it. She stated she had communicated with Mr. Nyoni who is now working in Dr. Lamla's office as an anthropologist and further said after the meeting JH and NN can go and talk to Mr. Nyoni. Regarding the date to transfer the collection JH said because of the mess done to the collection a date cannot be set as it needs to be sorted out first. She said in September she is out of country and would be available in November.

JH advised that the plaque should be put where it is not easily seen by public, this being done for security reasons. A corner was therefore identified in the storage building where a plaque can be installed. NN reported that the SAHRA Council had approved Broster Beadwork to be declared as a Specifically Declared Collection. Furthermore, final draft of the CMP document has been submitted to HOU and that HOU is busy writing a submission to Heritage Resources Sub- Committee (Council) Gazette notice has been drafted also. Regarding the Gazette notice WSU requested that Dr. Lamla's and Prof. Kuse's collection should be mentioned though the collections have not been declared. WSU stated that is the reason why the collection is named Walter Sisulu University Heritage Collection and not Broster. The collection that is to be housed in the storage building is not only Broster and not only beadwork, it is diverse. NN highlighted stated that as far as she knows a Gazette notice talks to that what is declared and not work in progress. However NN stated she will raise this matter with Grading and Declaration Review Committee and thereafter advise WSU of the outcomes as she cannot make any promises that the request shall be accepted.

As stated above, the envisage provisional date for handing over of the plaque and certificate cannot be agreed on since there is more work to be done in the collection. However, NN mentioned that by end of this financial year, which 31 March 2015, SAHRA wants to be done with the project as there are financial constraints and that it has been years that the project started. It was then agreed that at least by end February all outstanding tasks should have been completed or finalised. It did transpire that the challenge is with the collection. NN also informed WSU that SAHRA has no budget for the unveiling ceremony of a plaque. SAHRA has invested much in the project mentioning, commissioning of a conservator, paying for the CMP, Gazette notice and a plaque and inventory. NN stated that in the GDRC a question was asked whether HOU shall have a ceremony as it for the very first time that the unit will be declaring the collection under the National Heritage Resources Act NHRA, no.25 of 1999. In responding to the question, HOU stated that, it was their wish to have a ceremony but, due to financial constraints with the limited budget they cannot do it. On the other side WSU requested that they be given detailed information regarding the unveiling ceremony with cost. Their position therefore would be determined by the costing once received from SAHRA.

WSU asked whether they can have an exhibition in the storage building. JH said yes but, WSU should know that the building is for storage and not a museum. It is supposed to follow the museum practises because now it has a collection. In the near future it can be a museum if it meets the museum standards and practises. WSU mentioned that when the building is complete they are going to relocate some of the university collection and asked whether they may do so. JH responded once a year they can have a display of which they must have a theme. JH stated that WSU will have to employ a qualified and an experienced person to look after the collection. It was brought to the attention of JH and NN that WSU put an advert for a person to work in the building with Mrs. Lusu. WSU further stated they have received a big number of responses. JH emphasised that WSU will have to make it a point that they employ somebody who has an experience and is qualified. If it is possible the person appointed must also be part of the training programme that JH is going to conduct. WSU requested a loan policy and collection policy. NN informed that training programme and development of a loan policy forms part of the Terms of Reference for the development of a CMP. It therefore mean what WSU is requesting is catered for in the CMP. JH will workshop all staff responsible for the collection. Friendly user-manuals will be produced also as per TOR with the service provider. It was stated that Mr. G. Smit from East London Museum (ELM) is not well as a result it is not clear whether he could be part of the training but because training will commence once the collection has been properly stored then Deon from ELM might have recovered by that time. If this is not the case ELM will be asked to send another person for training.

NN proposed that there should be a task list and time frames with institution responsible for the tasks so that it is easy to see progress and also challenges.

Outcomes:

- ✓ JH and NN will visit the office of Mr. Nyoni and Dr. Lamla to find out about the accession register produced by Mrs. Broster
- ✓ NN will take the request from WSU about Gazette notice to HOU Manager and GDRC and shall communicate the response to WSU
- ✓ JH might go to WSU in November to work on the collection
- ✓ NN shall send WSU estimated costs for the unveiling ceremony
- ✓ NN will draft the action plan for all people involved in the project and circulate it to everybody
- ✓ JH and NN will spend a day where the collection is currently housed to work on it
- ✓ Agreed that all outstanding tasks must have been finalised by February 2015

Meeting finished at 15H30

JH and NN returned back to Sasol Library where the collection is kept to re-arrange it and store it properly.

Left the library at 16H45

## **DAY TWO – SESSION 1**

### **Attendance:**

1. Mr. P. Daleuem PD -MDA Architects commissioned by WSU
2. Mr. Dugard Barnard DB– WSU Director of Infrastructure and Facilities
3. Ms. June Hosford JH- Service provider commissioned by SAHRA
4. Mrs. Vuyiswa Lusu VL- WSU – Library
5. Miss Nolitha Ngcai NN- SAHRA

JH gave her report about the viewing of the storage building on 5 August 2014 and further highlighted all what needs to be done. JH will write a report regarding this matter and submit to HOU. DB mentioned that so far R2 million has been spent to renovate the building as a result now WSU does not have budget, meaning whatever has been recommended by JH might not be done in this current financial year but in the next financial year as WSU is prioritising what is urgent from what is not. JH stated that the collection is a priority, also however; she does accept that not all that she is recommending will be done in the current year. She said collection is as important as anything and therefore cannot be compromised but is happy that WSU in the near future is able to implement her recommendations.

## **SESSION 2 12H45**

Visit to Dr. Lamla (retired) and Mr. Nyoni's office- JH and NN had the opportunity of meeting Dr. Lamla. JH gave the background of the project and finally said that SAHRA is looking for an accession register that Ms. Geraldine Morcom from ELM

mentioned when she was writing a report about the state of the Broster Beadwork Collection. Dr. Lamla gave a brief of how the collection ended up in his office from the university and how it was taken to WSU Sasol Library. He then stated that the accession register was incomplete and he took it back to Mrs. Broster in Port Alfred. Dr. Lamla mentioned that both Mrs. Broster and he developed a catalogue which is detailed and he gave a copy to JH. JH told Dr. Lamla that SAHRA is working on the two collections, one for Broster and his but because there is no register it has been difficult to separate the two collections hence the request for the accession register. JH further requested Dr. Lamla to visit the storage building and informed him of the envisaged plans eg.declaration of the Broster Beadwork Collection and that in the near future both Dr. Lamla's and Prof. Kuse might be declared. Dr. Lamla agreed to be contacted if needs be.

### **SESSION 3**

JH and NN went back to Sasol Library to finish the work they were doing on the collection. JH asked Mrs. Lusu to request the maintenance staff to put pillars on the drawers as one has to use another hand to hold up the glass top when working on the collection.

Left WSU at 14H40

Report compiled by Nolitha Ngcai