



INITIATIVE FOR COMMUNITY ADVANCEMENT

2024

ANNUAL REPORT





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It is with great pride that I present the Annual Report of the Initiative for Community Advancement (ICA) for the period March 2023 to February 2024.

Chairperson's Report Mr Eugene Ohlson

This report highlights our key achievements, challenges, and lessons learned as we pursue our vision of building thriving and resilient communities. Despite obstacles, our commitment to mobilizing resources, fostering community participation, and strengthening organizational capacity has remained strong.

A major success this year was the Citizenship Engagement Programme, which empowered community members to engage in local governance. Initiatives like the "Whine and Dine: Ward Conferences," Youth Public Participation workshops, and the "BergrivierPulse" digital platform enabled community members to voice concerns, propose solutions, and hold officials accountable.

Our Enterprise Development Programme also grew, providing crucial support to SMMEs. In partnership with Umoya Energy and Aurora Solar Farm, we offered training, mentorship, and financial assistance, helping local entrepreneurs expand their businesses, create jobs, and boost the local economy.

Additionally, our Issue-Focused Dialogues and Community Affiliated Fund (CAF) Programme continued to address critical issues like gender-based violence, education, and youth development. These efforts have positively impacted lives and strengthened CAFs as change agents within their communities.

These achievements were made possible by the dedication of our staff, volunteers, partners, and donors. I extend my deepest gratitude to them, our board members for their guidance, and the community members for their trust and active participation—they are the heart of ICA.

As I conclude my term as Chairman of the ICA Board, it has been an honor to witness ICA's growth and impact since 2015. I am confident ICA will continue to excel and innovate, and I sincerely thank everyone for their support during my tenure.

E. Ohlson



The past year has been transformative for the Initiative for Community Advancement (ICA). Our focus on resilience and adaptability has enabled us to meet evolving community needs while making significant strides in our strategic objectives.

From the pen of the Director Jeremy Maarman

A key achievement was the implementation of our Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) framework, which has significantly improved impact measurement, decision-making, and stakeholder value. It has also fostered continuous learning within ICA, refining our practices and sharing insights more effectively.

Our Resource Mobilization Strategy has strengthened our financial sustainability. We deeply appreciate the ongoing support from Bread for the World (BftW) and are pleased to announce a new partnership with the Ford Foundation through 2026. Contributions from Suiderland Farms, PPC, Umoya Energy, TipTrans Resources, and Aurora Solar Farm have been crucial to our mission.

Collaboration with local partners, including the Berggrivier Municipality and various civil society organizations (CSOs), has been essential to achieving our shared goals.

We've prioritized updating our governance, human resources, and financial systems to align with best practices, ensuring ICA operates efficiently and transparently. Investment in staff and volunteer development further enhances our mission delivery.

Last year, ICA moved its offices to better reflect our broader role as a community foundation, addressing concerns about our focus on youth development.

We introduced innovative fundraising methods, like a pay point card system and online ticket platform, to reduce cash risks. However, these efforts led to financial challenges, prompting us to reassess our strategies for a better balance between innovation and financial prudence.

As Executive Director, I'm proud to lead a dedicated team. I extend deep gratitude to our Board, especially Chairperson Eugene Ohlson and Treasurer Gertrude van der Westhuizen, who are stepping down after years of invaluable service. Their contributions have been instrumental to ICA's growth, and we wish them well in their future endeavors.



J. Maarman

OUR VISION

We firmly believe that empowered communities can overcome challenges, build resilience, and create a prosperous future for all their members.

"Communities, through their collective agency and generosity, are thriving and resilient."

OUR MISSION

Our mission is our guiding star, shaping our every action and decision.

"ICA mobilises and channels resources, facilitates community participation, and strengthens organizational capacity towards community development initiatives."



Empowering Communities,
Building Resilience.

OVERVIEW OF THE FOUR C'S



Community Affiliated Fund Programme

Channelling Resources to Effective Non-Profit Organizations

ICA strategically allocates resources to high-impact non-profits, optimizing resource use and minimizing waste to meet community needs. The program supports NPOs and community-driven projects by administering grants through a transparent process, training CAF committee members, mobilizing diverse resources, providing grants for capacity building, and offering mentorship to sustain CAF committees.



Capacity Enhancement Programme

Capacitating Non-Profit Organizations to Implement Solutions

ICA enhances the capacity of non-profits through specialized training and support to improve their operational efficiency and project management. The program includes sustainability workshops, knowledge sharing, and networking opportunities, targeting Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs), Non-Profit Companies (NPCs), and unregistered Civil Society Organizations (CSOs).



Citizenship Engagement Programme

Convening Stakeholders Around Community Issues

ICA brings together stakeholders, including community members, NGOs, and government representatives, to collaboratively address community issues. The program involves organizing stakeholder dialogues, facilitating workshops for knowledge sharing, and creating digital platforms for public participation and advocacy. It targets Non-Profit Organizations (NPOs), community members, local leaders, and government representatives.



Contribute to SMME's

Contributing to SMME and Community Development

ICA's Enterprise Development Programme supports the growth and sustainability of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMMEs) to strengthen the local economy and create jobs. The program offers capacity-building workshops, mentorship and coaching for business growth, and seed funding for expansion. The primary target group is SMMEs.

PROGRAMMES OVERVIEW

Public Participation

ICA organized ward conferences to empower community members to voice concerns and propose solutions to local challenges.

These gatherings promoted inclusive dialogue, ensuring everyone, regardless of background or status, had a platform to express their views. The conferences aimed to identify community development priorities and mobilize participants to advance these initiatives, such as presenting them at municipal IDP meetings.

This year, three conferences were held, engaging a total of 125 participants. The details are outlined in the table below.

21 Attendees 25 April 2023 Piketberg Ward 4 IDP Submissions Workshop Facilitated by Cydil Davids	83 Attendees 21-22 June 2023 Piekenierskloof Mountain Resort Ward 5 NPO Summit Facilitated by Lauren Philander	21 Attendees 27 September 2023 Velddrift Riviera Hotel Ward 7 NPO Workshop Facilitated by Abdul Ryklief
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NPO Summit Feedback Summary

After the training, attendees provided feedback, rating various aspects of the summit on a scale of 1 to 5, with the average scores shown in the table. Participants expressed high satisfaction, with 97% intending to continue the discussions. The Net Promoter Score (NPS) was 86, indicating excellent attendee engagement and likelihood to recommend the platform to others.

The content was easy to understand	4.7
The conference was applicable to me as a citizen	4.7
There was enough time for the conference	4.3
The venue was appropriate	4.9
The activities were engaging	4.9
The visuals were engaging	4.5
The facilitator was clear in their communications	4.9
I felt comfortable to ask questions	4.7
I felt my voice was heard	4.6
I would be interested in attending a follow up conference on the same topic	4.8
I learnt something new in the conference 2	4.9

NPO Workshop Feedback Summary

After the NPO Workshop, 20 attendees provided feedback, rating various aspects on a scale of 1 to 5 (1 = strongly disagree, 5 = strongly agree). The average ratings are summarized in the table below, indicating high satisfaction among participants. Additionally, 100% of attendees expressed their intention to continue the discussions. The Net Promoter Score (NPS) was calculated based on participants' likelihood to recommend the platform, resulting in a score of +4. While the score is positive, there's room for improvement in engagement and satisfaction.

The content was easy to understand	4.7
The conference was applicable to me as a citizen	4.8
There was enough time for the conference	4.2
The venue was appropriate	4.7
The activities were engaging	4.6
The visuals were engaging	4.5
The facilitator was clear in their communications	4.9
I felt comfortable to ask questions	4.5
I felt my voice was heard	4.6
I would be interested in attending a follow up conference on the same topic	4.7
I learnt something new in the conference 2	4.8



Youth Public Participation - MyDorp

The MyDorp creativity workshops, facilitated by Lauren Philander, engaged primary school learners in designing their ideal towns, fostering creativity and encouraging imaginative thinking about urban planning and community development.

By involving young people in civic processes and decision-making, these workshops offered a hands-on, interdisciplinary learning experience that integrated geography, social studies, and art. The scale models created by the learners provided municipal decision-makers with fresh insights into the needs and aspirations of the youth, potentially influencing future urban planning.

Over the past 12 months, twelve MyDorp workshops were conducted in 10 schools, reaching 252 learners. Building on the success of these workshops, ICA developed six detailed scale models, which were presented on August 30th to municipal officials, community members, and key stakeholders. This presentation gave a tangible voice to the ideas and visions of the youth, offering valuable perspectives that could shape future urban planning and development.

Date	Location	Attendees	Date	Location	Attendees
4 April 2023	Pietie Fredericks Youth Center	18	3 Feb 2024	Goedverwacht Primary	14
17 May 2023	Steynville Primary	38	13 Feb 2024	Wittewater Primary	20
10 Aug 2023	Redelinghuys Primary	16	13 Feb 2024	Steynville Primary	23
30 Aug 2023	The Art Business, MyDorp Exhibition	27	14 Feb 2024	Porterville Primary	35
18 Sep 2023	Aurora Primary	16	15 Feb 2024	Eendekuil Primary	20
12 Feb 2024	Aurora Primary	18	15 Feb 2024	Sandveld Primary	23

Exhibition Feedback Summary

Attendees from seven different areas provided feedback after the exhibitions, with seven responses collected. They rated various aspects of the exhibition on a scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). The average ratings are as follows:

Relevance to role: 4.6
Increased understanding/awareness of individual needs in the ward: 4.7
Learned something new: 4.8
Intention to share exhibition insights with colleagues: 4.9
Increased awareness of youth needs in the ward: 4.9

Additionally, attendees rated the likelihood of recommending the exhibition to a colleague or friend, resulting in a Net Promoter Score (NPS) calculation. The NPS for the exhibition was +4, with 20% detractors, 15% passives, and 60% promoters. While the score is positive, there is room for improvement in engagement and satisfaction.

MyMachine 2023

The commencement of the first MyMachine cycle in 2023 marks a significant milestone for MyMachine South Africa, with particular importance attributed to the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT).

This cycle stands as the inaugural project in the partnership between MyMachine South Africa and CPUT, serving as a pilot initiative that underlines the substantial value and potential inherent in the MyMachine program for both young learners and third-year industrial design students at CPUT. The collaboration between MyMachine South Africa and CPUT students, in conjunction with the Grade 2 learners at Laerskool Jan Van Riebeeck, has yielded remarkable outcomes. Beyond the successful delivery of three captivating machines, this venture has now established a long-term partnership between MyMachine South Africa and CPUT, paving the way for future collaborations in South Africa, with a primary focus on the Western Cape for now.

70

**Children
reached**

15

**Students
reached**

185

**Ideas
generated**

3

**Machines
created**



Development of a Digital Platform

ICA developed two digital platforms to house the municipal project implementation and budget tracking data. The aim is that the platforms is to enable community members to hold municipalities accountable for their plans and give community members an understanding of local development processes in an easy to access manner.

During this reporting period, ICA successfully developed Bergrivier Pulse, a digital platform aimed at fostering community engagement and awareness within the Bergrivier municipality. Designed with the dual purpose of showcasing community submissions to the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) and raising awareness about the MyDorp program, Bergrivier Pulse serves as a tool for informing and connecting community members. By providing accessible information about local government, statistics, and the nonprofit sector, Bergrivier Pulse empowers residents to actively participate in shaping the future of their communities. This innovative platform exemplifies our commitment to transparency, collaboration, and community-driven development.

Community Affiliated Fund (CAF) Programme

The CAF programme is aimed at increasing knowledge about and access to resources as well as providing mechanisms for individuals and local businesses to invest for sustainable change.

ICA recruits, trains and support the CAF's in various aspects. Activities include facilitating issue-based dialogues within communities to assist in the recruitment of CAF committee members, as well as the training and support of CAFs and their committees. This support includes administrative support, fundraising support, grant-making support and mentoring.

Essentially, the CAF programme aims to support local community projects which address priority issues in the community through small-scale grants and mentorship. ICA currently manages four types of Community Affiliated Funds (CAFs): the Bergrivier YouthFund (BYF), Community Rebuilding Fund (CRF), Dr. Somers Education Fund, and the Hoop Fund (Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Response Fund). Each fund is dedicated to specific community needs. The Bergrivier YouthFund focuses on empowering youth through education, skills development, and leadership training. The Community Rebuilding Fund supports initiatives aimed at rebuilding and revitalizing communities, especially those affected by disasters or economic decline. The Dr. Somers Education Fund provides scholarships, educational resources, and support for learners pursuing higher education. The Hoop Fund is dedicated to addressing and combating gender-based violence through prevention programs, support services, and advocacy.



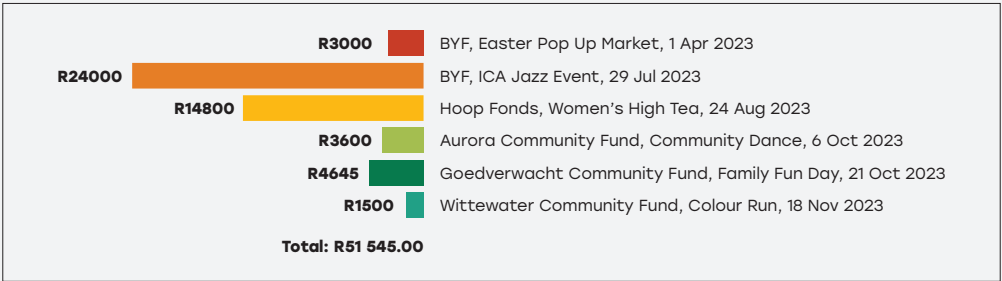
Issue-focused dialogues

Issues-focused dialogues are facilitated dialogues with the community with a particular issue in focus, for example Gender-Based Violence.

The main aim of the dialogues is to facilitate discussions around important community topics, in addition these dialogues can serve as a platform to identify a group of community members who are willing to take the issue further in the form of a Community Affiliated Fund to assist in addressing the issue for the community. There were two issue based dialogues that took place within the reporting period reaching a total of 23 people.

Fundraising

ICA, in partnership with the CAF committees, have held several fundraising events, as detailed below:



Grant-making

Activities undertaken by the CAFs, facilitated by Norma Erasmus, are detailed below.

Date	CAF	Activity	Location	Attendees
6 Apr 2023	Education	Scholar Bursary Ceremony	Piketberg Library	10
15 Sept 2023	BYF	Youth Grant Ceremony	ICA Office	6
22 Feb 2024	CRF	De Berge Guesthouse	Piketberg De Berge	9

Education Fund

The Education Fund allocated two grants in this reporting period.

Rushin Adams and Jaden Simpson both received R13 797 (90% of their school fees) on the 24th March 2023.



Enterprise Development Programme

ICA promotes sustainable development and empowerment in underserved communities through our Enterprise Development Programme.

Partnering with Umoya Energy, we supported local SMMEs via the CRF Fund, awarding six grants this period. We also conducted three training sessions, led by Nigel Mecuur, focusing on the diverse business landscape in Bergrivier. Our report highlighted key challenges, outcomes from the October and November 2023 sessions, and identified promising ventures while addressing critical business skill gaps.

Six grantees: Waymaker SHE Support services (PTY) Ltd, Jeviante Trading and service (PTY) Ltd, Woodlogix (PTY) Ltd, NM Motor Services (PTY) Ltd, Dianne’s Driving School (PTY) Ltd, MSJ Power Builders (PTY) Ltd.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Notes	2024	2023
Revenue			
Grants and donations received		2,869,171	1,561,548
Project income		-	170,131
		2,869,171	1,731,679
Operating expenses			
Accounting fees		49,500	45,400
Auditing		17,444	16,582
Bank charges		5,468	2,743
Community affiliated fund		167,577	228,668
Computer cost		16,798	-
Depreciation		17,825	19,358
Donor refunds		-	9,256
Employee costs		777,884	615,955
Learnership stipend		21,420	29,927
Marketing and communications		20,581	3,420
Monitoring and evaluation		30,549	7,200
Office furniture		40,753	-
Office material		66,772	29,093
Personnel development		9,946	2,935
Professional fees		35,619	27,279
Programming costs		735,960	211,293
Regranting		156,320	37,275
Rent, electricity and water		66,600	2,773
Repairs and maintenance		2,406	-
SARS penalty		740	1,275
Teacher fees		161,820	14,750
Telephone, internet and posting		30,906	30,849
		2,432,888	1,336,031
OPERATING SURPLUS			
Investment income	7	13,289	3,045
Finance costs	8	-	(34)
		13,289	3,011
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR			
		449,572	398,659

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 29 FEBRUARY 2024

	Notes	2024	2023
Assets			
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	2	48,393	29,220
Current Assets			
Trade and other receivables	3	49,519	9,755
Cash and cash equivalents	4	1,112,277	855,098
		1,161,796	864,853
TOTAL ASSETS		1,210,189	894,073
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
EQUITY			
Reserves		1,055,444	605,872
LIABILITIES			
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5	137,301	271,744
Provisions	6	17,444	16,457
		154,745	288,201
TOTAL EQUITY AND LIABILITIES		1,210,189	894,073



OUR BOARD MEMBERS & TEAM



Eugene Ohlson
CHAIRPERSON



Dr. Jeremy Somers
SECRETARY



Gertrude vd Westhuizen
TREASURER



Jeremy Maarman
DIRECTOR



Chimell Scotsman
OPERATIONS
OFFICER



Lauren Philander
COMMUNITY IMPACT
COORDINATOR



Margaret Maans
RESOURCE MOBILISATIONS
OFFICER



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