



ST STITHIANS COLLEGE PATH of HOPE + LIGHT



iMADIBA

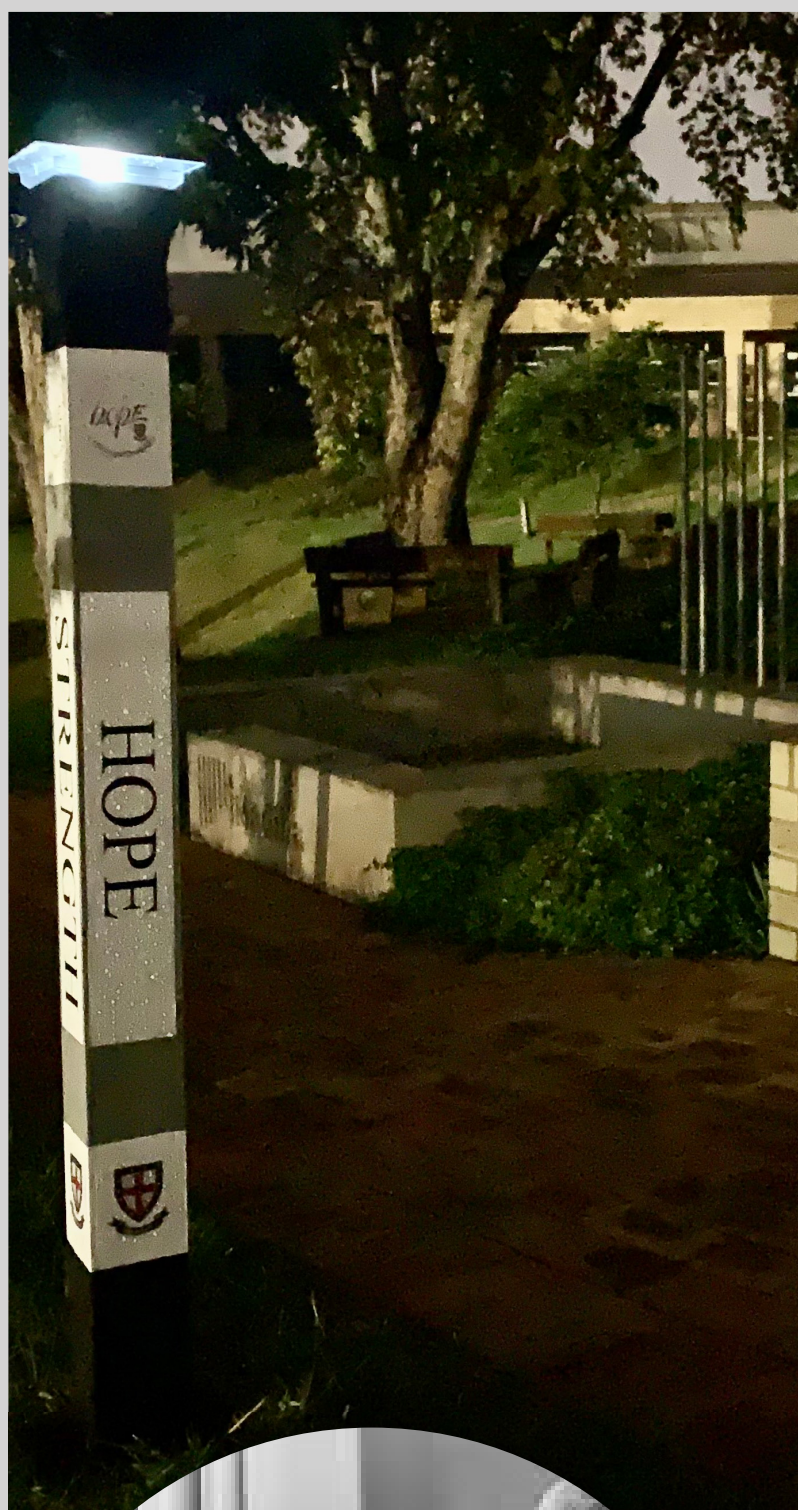
Officially opened on the 24th July 2018

1 August, 2020 (Founders' Day) the plaque at our iMadiba site was officially unveiled



The iMadiba Project is a global interactive, participative art project creating conversations for change through art installations, or micro museums, based on the actual dimensions of the Robben Island cell where the late president spent most of his 27 years of incarceration. The micro museums are sites for dialogue, for memory, and for reflection.

The micro museum is not only functional, it is also art. It should be seen as a safe place for people to engage with each other on absolutely anything. The conversation needn't be political; it should be whatever those in the space need it to be.



The size of the installation means those who engage there do so in close proximity to each other, with no physical barriers. This "barrier-less-ness" should pull through in their connections and their conversations. The broad intention of the project is to create a micro museum by building multiple installations throughout South Africa and the world, thereby creating a global museum for reflection and conversation in Mandela's honour.

The concept is the creation of Erhardt Thiel, a photographer and artist who was inspired to create the installations as a way for people to identify themselves within Madiba's legacy. Thiel wanted to create a project that could actively get people to associate themselves with the value systems of South Africa's former president. His vision is to take the world's smallest museum, one of his carefully constructed structural conversational installations, and turn it into the world's largest museum thus ensuring that the legacy of the late Nelson Mandela is spread around the globe by placing a sculpture in as many locations as possible.

In naming the site or discussing it, we must use the words "I" and "Madiba" thus opening our minds to finding ways in which we can emulate his values.

In 1991, as a student at Stellenbosch University, Thiel photographed Madiba when he spoke at the university for the first time. Madiba spoke through a megaphone, and Thiel sees the iMadiba Project as a megaphone for Mandela's legacy; a way to amplify his legacy. Thiel views these micro museums as "listeners' corners" rather than "speakers' corners"; it is where people from all walks of life can get to know and understand each other in the spirit of acceptance.

St Stithians was proud to officially open the eleventh iMadiba site and the seventh of the numbered copies on Tuesday 24th July 2018 in the year that Nelson Mandela would have celebrated his 100th Birthday. The St Stithians College installation has generously been donated by the Chair and then Deputy Chair of the school's council, Mr Carel Nolte and Mrs Ntombi Langa-Royds and St Stithians' alumni Allan Bader and Lethabo-Thabo Royds, and the College is incredibly grateful for this.

To watch the video of our Official Opening of the iMadiba installation which took place as part of our virtual Founder's Day in 2020, **please click here:** https://youtu.be/JJV-A_xUJ_A

Sources:

<http://www.imadiba.com/>

Our thanks go to St Stithians College Archivist, Dr Mary Reynolds for researching and collating this information.



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Nelson Mandela

Image source: <https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/interactive/2013/12/05/world/africa/Mandela-Timeline.html>

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