

# CityViews

Winter 2025

YOUR FREE CAPE TOWN CBD NEWSPAPER



## MILESTONE STUDIOS THE BEAT OF THE INNER CITY

CONTAINS  
**THE TOUGH TIMES**  
SUPPLEMENT



**CCID 24-HOUR  
EMERGENCY  
NUMBER**  
082 415 7127

**03**

Crime drops  
in town

**07**

Where to find  
sizzling steaks

**08**

What's on in  
the inner city



[www.capetownccid.org](http://www.capetownccid.org)

Published by the Cape Town Central City Improvement District (CCID)



## FROM THE CEO

Winter is upon us but there’s no letting up in the Cape Town CBD! Once again, I am proud to write about the innovative entrepreneurs and business owners who are ensuring the city centre draws the crowds.

On p. 4, Mary Corrigan, art commentator extraordinaire and convenor of the CBD HEAT Winter Festival, explains how launching an arts festival in the dead of winter turned into a surprising success and why the second edition (from 6-16 August) is set to be even better. Over 16 CBD galleries and live venues will bring art, opera, music, theatre and comedy to town, livening up creative spaces and ensuring much-needed footfall for retailers.

We wholeheartedly support this venture by Corrigan, and her vision to energise town with “copious amounts of thought-provoking” performances and exhibitions. Please come out in droves to do the same.

Then, on p. 5, we profile another visionary, namely Claus Tworeck aka “Mr Red Bus”, whose extraordinary business City Sightseeing is pumping locals and tourists into Cape Town and the CBD. Another iconic company, Milestone Studios, a renowned family-owned recording studio, continues to make waves (and music) uniquely.

It’s these and other people who make our CBD tick. And you read about them here. Enjoy and stay warm.

**TASSO EVANGELINOS**  
CEO of the CCID

## A SPLASH OF COLOUR IN TOWN

What began as a simple street beautification has blossomed into a vibrant, ongoing project transforming the CBD – one bollard and basket at a time.

Street artists HandControl 360 Crew began painting bollards in St Georges Mall in January 2024; their brief from CCID Urban Management was to turn ordinary street fixtures into miniature

artworks reflecting the city’s heritage. The initiative expanded to Thibault Square and Waterkant St. “Nearly 50 bollards were painted between Sea and Loop Sts – giving rise to an oceanic theme,” says Kally Benito, Urban Management manager.

But the colour doesn’t stop at bollards. In St Georges Mall 103 poles are adorned with

a bird design by artist Simone Lawrence – who also painted the colourful wine barrels in Waterkant St. Recently, 14 new floral baskets were hung in the mall, bringing the total to 133. The basket project, launched in 2020, provides year-round bursts of colour. With each pole, bollard, and basket, Cape Town’s streets are being reimaged as galleries on the streets.



An artist from HandControl 360 Crew at work.

## Numbers

### THE CCID AT WORK FROM FEBRUARY – APRIL 2025

#### SAFETY & SECURITY

Made **226** arrests with law enforcement agencies

**28** Dealt with **28** illegal trading offences

Responded to **6** alarm activations and secured **30** premises and vehicles

CCID-funded Law Enforcement Officers issued **1 103** fines for non-moving traffic violations to the value of **R963 300** & **167** fines for bylaw and moving traffic violations to the value of **R135 400**

CCID-funded Traffic wardens issued **8 203** fines to a total of **R5 352 900**

**893** Conducted **893** crime-prevention initiatives

Responded to **121** medical & rescue callouts

**35** Rendered public assistance **35** times

Assisted at the scene of **250** motor vehicle accidents

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Generated **38** media clips to an advertising value equivalent (AVE) of **R1 924 887** with a potential reach of **178 777 635** people

**271** Wrote **271** Facebook posts on the CCID’s **3** Facebook pages

Produced **1** e-Newsletter which reached **9 783** subscribers

**3** Boosted **3** Facebook posts which reached **108 800** people

Produced, published, and distributed **City Views Autumn 2025**

#### SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Interacted with **447** homeless people

**45** Placed **45** adults in shelters in the CBD

Cleaned **93** wounds

Referred **67** people for counselling and support

**7** Assisted **7** adults to get back home and **7** clients with ID applications

Served **965** meals

**32** Assisted **32** adults to healthcare facilities

**Received donations** from Lemkus, Sunsquare Cape Town City Bowl, Buitenkant Square, Mount Nelson, A Belmond Hotel, and The Rainbow Academy

#### URBAN MANAGEMENT

Removed **314** tonnes of litter and illegally dumped waste to landfill

Removed **735 kg** of cigarette butts from **323** ciggie bins

Serviced **1 272** bins in the Long and Loop Sts Bin Project

Cleaned municipal drains **1 399** times & cleaned **355** storm water drains

Cleaned **12** channels and removed **16 kg** of waste

Cleared **9 529 kg** of waste from municipal and storm water drains

Painted **7 289** road markings

Undertook **256** road maintenance repairs

Removed **318** incidents of graffiti

Maintained **268** tree wells and removed a total of **236 kg** of debris

Removed **1 405** strings & stickers

## CityViews

is a free Cape Town Central City community newspaper published by the Cape Town Central City Improvement District (CCID), a non-profit company. It is the CCID’s vision to ensure that the Central City is safe, clean, caring and open for business for all who use it, whether they live, work, play or invest here.

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For more Central City news, subscribe to the CCID newsletter.  
Go to [www.capetownccid.org](http://www.capetownccid.org)



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# OPEN FOR BUSINESS

*The CCID welcomes these new businesses to town.*



## Q&A WITH BRAIDY & LEE CONNOLLY, OWNERS OF VEGAN STREETFOOD

### What is Vegan Streetfood all about?

Vegan Streetfood, a mother-and-daughter business, began in 2018 when Lee started selling jars of her Clean Vegan Protein at local markets. It was unique at the time, packaged in biodegradable and compostable containers. It didn't take long before people were asking how to cook with it, sparking the creation of our now-signature range: high-protein plant-based street food.

### Tell us about your business journey so far.

We opened our first deli in Monte Vista in 2019, followed by a full café in Observatory in 2020.

We operated through some of the toughest years in the hospitality industry. From sit-down to takeaway, frozen goods to nationwide delivery, we evolved to stay connected to our community. In 2022, we took Vegan Streetfood on the road with our food truck, which has since become a regular at markets, concerts, and even major stadium events.

### Why open a kiosk in the CBD?

Our community has been asking for a permanent base where they can grab their favourites. The festival season keeps us on the road from September to April, so this kiosk will enable us to serve our loyal local customers while introducing Vegan

Streetfood to a new crowd in the heart of the city. The CBD has such dynamic energy, and we saw an opportunity to offer something fresh and fun.

### What can people expect from the kiosk?

Delicious, hearty food that's 100 % vegan and 100 % satisfying. We serve burgers, wraps, baos, loaded fries, breakfast buns, salads, sarmies and more, all with bold flavours and generous portions. Whether you're plant-based or just plant-curious, there's something on the menu for everyone.

**SALT Food Market, The Box,**  
9 Lower Burg St  
060 633 9837

[www.veganstreetfood.co.za](http://www.veganstreetfood.co.za)



For more Central City news and views, subscribe to the CCID's e-Newsletter. Go to [www.capetownccid.org](http://www.capetownccid.org) and fill in the pop-up window.

## NEW VENUES



### EAT

#### Jack's Burgers

Set to become the best takeout burger in town, this new kiosk serves smashed burgers (a double 100 % beef patty), cheese, pickles, crispy fries and Coke. An extension of cult sneaker store, Lemkus. **28 St Georges Mall**  
[@jacksburger\\_](https://www.instagram.com/jacksburger_)

#### The Annex Restaurant & Venue

This new café and venue space serves as the eatery for WINK Thibault and One Thibault Residence, but it's open to the public, too. Enjoy a small but carefully curated menu of fuss-free food and excellent coffee.

**1 Thibault Sq**  
**Cnr Lower Long St & Hans Strijdom Ave**



### DRINK

#### Nkula Cocktail & Wine Bar

Inspired by courage, community and consciousness, this proudly black-owned wine and cocktail bar knows how to throw a good party and mix a next-level cocktail. Pull in for the vibe. **188A Long St**  
[@nkula\\_cpt](https://www.instagram.com/nkula_cpt)

## USEFUL CONTACTS

### EMERGENCY

#### CCID 24-HOUR EMERGENCY

(Available via cell phone or WhatsApp)

**082 415 7127**

(Cape Town CBD only)

#### AMBULANCE, HEALTH, NOISE & FIRE

**107 / 021 480 7700**

(24 hours)

**107** from landlines only

#### SAPS CENTRAL CITY

**021 467 8001/2**

(24 hours)

## CITY OF CAPE TOWN SERVICES

### INCIDENT REPORTING & ENQUIRIES

Refuse collection, water issues, street lights and electricity faults  
**0860 103 089**

Traffic signal faults  
**0800 656 463**

Reporting illegal dumping  
**021 444 6223/4**  
**021 480 7700 (a/h)**

Cable theft  
**0800 222 771**

Disaster Risk Management  
**080 911 4357**  
**021 597 6000 (24 hours)**

### SOCIAL CONCERNS

CT Drug Counselling Centre  
**021 447 8026**  
**073 755 1913 (WhatsApp)**

Childline Western Cape  
**021 762 8198**

WC Social Development  
**0800 220 250**

CCID Social Development  
**021 286 0836**

### BYLAW & TRAFFIC INFRINGEMENTS

Law Enforcement  
**021 596 1999 (24 hours)**

Traffic Police  
**0860 765 423**

Metro Police  
**0860 765 423**

## VITAL DROP IN CRIME

Crime incidents in town dropped dramatically in May 2025 compared to the same period last year.

The CCID's Safety & Security department reported a record-breaking month, assisting in 114 arrests, up from 87 in May 2024. This represents the highest number of arrests secured in a single month by the CCID.

Jurie Bruwer, CCID Safety & Security manager, says there was a sharp increase in drug-related arrests. "Last year, five of the 87 arrests in May were for being in possession of drugs. This year, it jumped to 65," he says. Overall, reported crime continues to decline. "There were 58 fewer reported cases involving theft, theft out of motor vehicles, robbery, and bank card scamming."

The improved stats can be attributed to joint crime-prevention operations with SAPS, City of Cape Town Law Enforcement, CCID-funded Law Enforcement Officers and the City's Cyclops CCTV unit. "Our engagement with Cyclops rose from 59 interactions to 114. They were involved in 247 operations this May, whereas they did not participate in any of our operations last year."



# TURN UP THE HEAT

Who would dream of launching an arts festival in the Cape Town CBD in the dead of winter? Mary Corrigan. Here she writes about the surprising success of last year's inaugural HEAT Winter Festival and spills the beans on what awaits cultural mavens this year.

The winter season in Cape Town is traditionally a quiet one. Inclement weather and low tourist numbers have inculcated a view that this is “dead time”. Some even call it the Cape Town “coma”. Indeed, the plethora of art galleries in the city centre struggle to get locals to attend exhibitions and sales are slow. Exciting shows are planned for summer as the exhibition cycle slows.

During a 2023 art writing programme funded by the Spier Arts Trust, I gained a detailed understanding of the realities art dealers face during winter, and this inspired the creation of the HEAT Winter Arts Festival. Their enthusiasm and commitment to financially support the marketing of a winter event centred around the inner city's art galleries led to the first edition in 2024.

## OTHER WORLDING

Capetonians embraced the concept of a rambling winter event offering 13 exhibitions as well as opera, music, theatre, and comedy programming. Despite the Level 8 storm last July, 3 656 people attended events over 10 days. Several shows sold out, including Opera UCT's Inspired by Nature programme at the AVA Gallery, Sue-Pam Grant's installation/performance at the Iziko SA National Gallery and the



**CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP:** Artist Ulriche Jantjes will present her work at the festival; EBONY/CURATED gallery in Loop St, one of the participating galleries; Rory Emmett will exhibit at Eclectica Contemporary in Church St; another participating venue, the Association for Visual Arts (AVA) Gallery in Church St.

stand-up comedy programme presented by Comedy In Common at the Outlore Base. A generation of young visual artists achieved high visibility.

We are building on the momentum for this year's edition which incorporates over 16 CBD galleries and live venues. Exhibitions will speak to the festival theme, *Other Worlding*, conceived by Voni Baloyi, one of the festival curators. It draws attention to the way artists re-imagine or relay reality, revealing our society's deepest desires or fears or plotting new histories or futures.

## LONG-TERM VISION

Our long-term vision is to create a festival that will grow in reputation and size, drawing audiences from beyond Cape Town. Think of Edinburgh. It will take time for us to get there. We are grateful to all our partners who support this vision; art galleries as well as strategic partnerships and sponsorship from BASA, Wesgro, the CCID, the Spier Arts Trust, Art School Africa, Institut Française, Alliance Française, Orms, Strauss & Co and Capital Point. Make no doubt, the Cape Town “coma” will be lifted by copious amounts of thought-provoking art, theatre, and comedy. Culture doesn't require good weather to flourish.

## WHAT TO EXPECT

The **visual arts programme** is the core of the 10-day festival. Gallery partners have curated exhibitions that speak to this year's theme, *Other Worlding*. This year's **gallery partners** include the Association of Visual Arts (AVA), artHARARE, Christopher Moller, EBONY/CURATED, Eclectica Contemporary, Everard Read, RESERVOIR, HUB Gallery operated by Spier Arts Trust (SAT), Nel, Lemkus, Smac, Untitled Art, WORLDART and Sisonke in partnership with SAT and Our Cape Town Heritage. Additional **visual arts** programming will be staged at the Iziko South African National Museum and the Planetarium's digital dome. We encouraged galleries to work with new emerging artists.

The festival is focussed on the next generation of artists and emerging mid-career artists. Rising artists from Zimbabwe, Egypt, Nigeria and Tunisia will participate; however, art probing Cape Malay culture will be prominent this year. Some artists to look out for include Balekane Legoabe, Nada Baraka, Sahlah Davids, Dan Halter, Richard Mudariki, Johann Louw, Selwyn Steyn, Ulriche Jantjes, Adelheid Frackiewicz, Olamide Ogunade, Rebaone Finger,

Gavin Goodman, Thekiso Mokhele, Colijn Strydom and Gwen van Embden.



The youth-focussed programming extends to **other art forms**. Nkgopoleng Moloi, Fleur du Cap theatre awards judge, has curated high-quality **theatre works** by emerging theatre makers, to be staged at the Wave Theatre in Long St.

**Opera UCT's** world-renowned director, Jeremy Silver, will present a compelling programme performed by the company's most

promising young opera talents at the Alliance Française, the HEAT Festival hub. At this cultural landmark in Loop St, festivalgoers can enjoy a cup of coffee, plan their festival programme, and experience a **VR work**. The Quiet Life Co, a Cape Town-based sound business connected to the city's best young live musicians, will showcase a variety of them during the festival.

Comedy In Common, headed by S'Qhamo Mangcu and Nishen Pather, will present two events highlighting new local **stand-up comics**.

The HEAT Winter Arts Festival takes place in town from 6-16 August. Visit [www.heatfestival.org](http://www.heatfestival.org) for early-bird ticket offers or to find out more about the programme.

# ALL ABOARD

City Sightseeing's red buses pump tourists and locals through Cape Town's veins. We get the low-down from the man whose passion drives the business.

By Dave Chambers

Richard Branson launched a mail order record business at the age of 20 and went on to found Virgin. Sean Summers stacked Pick n Pay trolleys as a schoolboy and became the company's CEO – twice. And Claus Tworeck started cleaning tourist buses at the age of 16 and today owns City Sightseeing South Africa, whose red buses are as much part of Cape Town as Table Mountain and *Tweede Nuwe Jaar*.

With about 60 buses in Cape Town and Johannesburg, four boats and up to 250 staff during the peak season, it's a complex and sometimes stressful business. But as Tworeck says, "I love buses, I love tourism, and I'm having fun. Most people go to work because they have to. I go because I enjoy being there."

## PART-TIME PASSION

His passion for buses was ignited at the age of 16 when he needed a part-time job to pay for his first motorbike. "Janis Ross – who was the 'engine room' of the Hylton and Janis duo that owned Hylton Ross Tours – took a liking to me and I ended up cleaning buses for the company on weekends and during the week in the afternoons," says Tworeck.

Before long, the mechanic who looked after the buses agreed to give him a "mini apprenticeship", and when Tworeck graduated with an engineering degree in the late 1980s, Ross asked him to insource the company's maintenance and open a workshop. Soon he was managing all the company's operations. And when the Ross family decided to sell in 2002, he partnered with another mentor, David Munton, to acquire the business. Two of the original vintage buses survived and they were incorporated into the fleet, operating Cape Town's first open-top tours. Five years later, the Tollman family's Cullinan Holdings made him an offer, and he accepted.

## A GLOBAL BRAND

With a focus on the open-top buses, Tworeck and Munton rebranded the business to the global City Sightseeing brand. Seventeen years later, the business runs a fleet of Hop-on-Hop-off buses on two routes (red and blue), Xplorer day tours to attractions such as Cape Point and the winelands, and boat cruises at the V&A Waterfront. In 2013, it expanded

to Johannesburg, where it has Hop-on-Hop-off buses and tours of Soweto.

Tworeck, 58, is quick to emphasise that building the company has been a team effort. The CEO runs the "engine room" alongside a tight-knit leadership team that includes his wife, Wendy Volkel, as finance director; Paul Nel as head of operations; and David Henwood as head of marketing. And while he's built and led two successful businesses, he's quick to credit the strength of his team.

## A COMMITTED TEAM

"In tourism, you need to be diligent and hardworking," he says. "It runs seven days a week, 24 hours a day." City Sightseeing is no different. Its buses are on the road throughout the day and maintenance happens at night. "If a bus gets a dent on Saturday afternoon, it needs to be fixed by Sunday morning, which takes a committed team."

The Paarden Eiland office has about 30 staff. Tworeck isn't always at his desk. "When the workshop has a technical issue, I still sometimes play 'bus-bus' and get in the pit under the bus to have a look. I value these moments, actually."

The CEO's day starts with a ride on his e-bike from Camps Bay to City Sightseeing's sales office in Long St. Tworeck's easy-going chatter often

extends to tourists waiting to board the buses. He says they all have one thing in common: "Most businesses provide something people need. We offer something people *want*. When they come to us, they're already in a good mood and we get to be part of making that happy moment even better."

Glowing Tripadvisor reviews often attract attention from other operators in the group's global network of more than 100 cities, and many come to Cape Town to decode Tworeck's secret sauce. "I tell them South Africans are, by nature, warm and friendly people. Yes, we have our share of challenges, but we get on with it."

Consistency is also key. "To run an open-top bus business you need the right bus at the right bus stop at the right time with the right crew." Then there's technology. "We are advanced. Buying a ticket online, getting a QR code on your phone and scanning to redeem a ticket has only been rolled out in Europe in recent years. We've implemented it since 2009. In the coming season we want you to be able to have your ticket in your Apple wallet and tap your phone on a terminal to activate it."

Another summer highlight will be the return of the CBD's yellow Hop-on-Hop-off route – suspended since the

pandemic – albeit in a different form. "The CBD is incredibly important for tourism in Cape Town. There's been a perception among visitors that it has become unsafe, but the Cape Town Central City Improvement District (CCID) works tirelessly and effectively to dispel that myth. We reinforce its efforts in our messaging on the bus and by running walking tours. People want to tick off their wish lists, so we all need to ensure these places remain accessible, clean and safe."

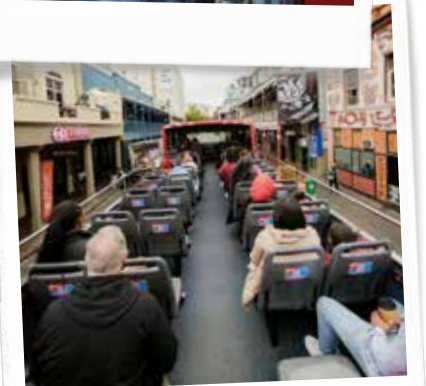
After 23 years, Tworeck is still positive about the business, insisting on continuous innovation, which means substantial investment in the imported buses, technology and state-of-the-art ticketing systems. The company shares its success by supporting iKhaya le Themba, a Hout Bay after-school centre for vulnerable children, and helps its own staff manage personal challenges through a Red Angels project.

And what delights him, 42 years after Janis Ross changed his life by employing him to clean buses, is that at the age of 80 she remains an active member of his team. "She keeps herself busy with as much or as little as she wants to do."

**City Sightseeing** | 81 Long St |  
021 511 6000  
[www.citysightseeing.co.za](http://www.citysightseeing.co.za)



**CLOCKWISE, FROM TOP:** One of the City Sightseeing red bus fleet travels down Long St en route to Stop 5, its main CBD stop and sales office; Claus Tworeck is still excited about the business 23 years after taking the helm; aboard an open-top bus in the CBD.



# MAKING MILESTONES



Milestone Studios is one of Cape Town's best-kept secrets – unless you're in the music industry. Then you're in the know. **By Kim Maxwell**

It's an iconic establishment in the Cape Town CBD. Aptly named after jazz great Miles Davis, Milestone Studios is a legendary recording studio in the heart of town that opened in 1987, with many great artists passing through its doors.

The family business was started by Murray Anderson, a musician with technical skills. Today the Milestone five-person team includes his daughter Claire, one of the sound engineers, who works side by side with Anderson to manage the business.

Over 38 years, Anderson gradually built the studio, creating a space where musicians, choirs and orchestras can thrive and make high-quality recordings. They also offer soundproof locations for film companies and advertising agency voice-overs.

Milestone Studios was initially based in the Old Castle Brewery in Woodstock. "A band I played in was signed to a record company that wanted to start a studio. I had the technical know-how," says Anderson. "Back then, I literally had one microphone, one cassette recorder, one keyboard and one drum box." The business slowly grew, and they acquired fancier equipment, transitioning from analogue to digital.

In 1989, Anderson moved the business to its current Bloem St address. "We used to record on reels of tape," he says. "The building was later knocked down in 2004. That's how we got to build these studios from scratch.

"It was not an easy time, after that big financial crash in 2008. Banks didn't want to lend me money to finish off the studio. I just scraped away and gradually built it up."

Claire Anderson, 28, has been quietly listening. "Watching what was happening to my dad, it was about real determination



and a force of will to carry on. And a belief in the value of local music."

## DESIGN ELEMENTS

Fortunately, rebuilding was a boost for Milestone, ultimately attracting local and international musical talent. "The live room is what sets us apart from other studios," explains Claire. It was purpose-built by a specialist architect, with features to optimise sound quality. The space is large enough to accommodate an orchestra or a choir and often does.

The live recording room features a curved front and non-parallel walls, to prevent unwanted sound reflections. "Most standard rooms aren't great from a sound point perspective because they are square or rectangular," says Claire. "Then you get a standing wave: one or other frequency will be boosted or cut," adds her dad. "What you want is all the frequencies to be equal. We basically started with nothing on the walls, measured it, put up some panels to absorb the sound, then diffusers, until we got it right."

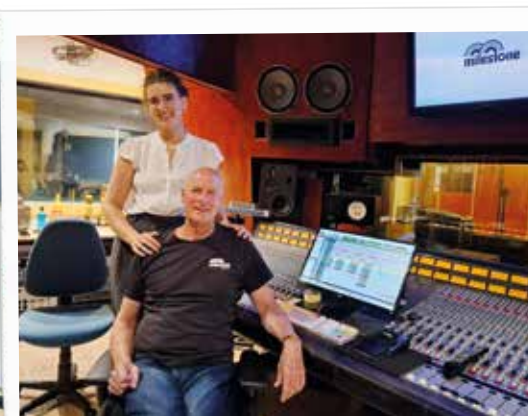
There are wooden wall panels, and quirky sound absorbers resembling

bobbing corks suspended from the ceiling. Mobile orange-red fabric screens from the seventies prevent sound from bleeding between microphones.

Four adjacent isolation booths are used for setting up different musicians. "In a small studio, you must record each part separately. First the drums, then bass, then guitar, etcetera," explains Anderson. At Milestone, everyone interacts in real time but is recorded separately. "We can record every individual musician element simultaneously, while keeping the sound controlled," says Claire. "So, for a choir, you'd put the choir in the live room and isolate somebody playing a djembe drum in a smaller booth so it wouldn't be so loud.

"It's particularly relevant for jazz, where people improvise and are more inventive," Murray adds. "You can't do that without musicians playing together. Also, if you're all in one room and someone makes a mistake, everyone must redo the track."

"It's called a live room because when people play music, you want to get some response from the room," smiles Claire, going upstairs to a small booth. "But for voiceovers, we offer this dead room."



**ABOVE:** Claire and Murray Anderson, the father-and-daughter duo behind Milestone Studios. **LEFT:** Members of the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra in the "live room", purpose built by a specialist architect.

## ADAPT OR DIE

Back in the control room with its mixing desk, the sound is incredible. As a small business, Claire says they were grateful for the heads up about Dolby Atmos (the new surround-sound standard for premium Apple music releases) from one of their major record labels four years ago. "It's nice to know what you need to stay relevant. Obviously, we made it happen."

Another time, a practical consideration prompted adaptation: when the orchestra couldn't fit a timpani drum through a studio door, Milestone modified the door. "We're proactive! It was a battle to build this studio. And I really love coming here. I believe the studio provides a service for Cape Town," says Anderson.

Claire agrees. "My life has been made so much better by listening to great music. It's a privilege to play a small part in that. To later hear an album you really love and have heard unfold as it was recorded. To remember how it first sounded, what they tried ..."

**Milestone Studios** | 21 Bloem St | 021 424 6000  
[www.milestones.co.za](http://www.milestones.co.za)

## MILESTONE STUDIOS' ICONIC RECORDINGS

► Cape Jazz legend Abdullah Ibrahim, Robbie Jansen, Basil "Manenberg" Coetzee, Tony Cedras (who was in Paul Simon's Graceland band). More recently, Mandisi Dyantyi.

► African musicians

including Amampondo, Abavuki and Ibuyambo. The late traditional Xhosa bow-playing legend Madosini.

► Shared sessions of multiple classical composers — it's more cost-effective than

booking the orchestra on an individual basis.

► *8 goals for Africa* for the United Nations in 2010, including South Africa's Yvonne Chaka Chaka, Jimmy Dladu and Hugh Masekela, plus Zimbabwean

Oliver Mtshudzi

► US singer Miley Cyrus recorded *Head like a Hole*, a song for the Black Mirror TV series, while in South Africa shooting the series.

► Zolani Mahola of Freshly Ground.

► Klipwerf Orkes boeremusiek.

► Cape Town rapper YoungstaCPT with DJ Lag.

► Queen's 40664 concert in 2003.

► Voice-overs for Tom Felton, Morgan

Freeman, Jeff Bridges and Juliette Binoche.

► *Klipdrift Met Eish* advertisement. "It's a creative challenge to write a memorable piece of music in 30 seconds, but I really enjoy that."

— Murray Anderson.

# SIZZLING STEAKS!

“Where’s the beef?” Better still, where are the good steaks to be had in the Cape Town CBD? Here are four steak and grill specialists that come highly recommended.

By Kim Maxwell



## CARNE ON KEEROM

Carne has attracted serious meat lovers since 2008, with Milanese restaurateur Giorgio Nava sending waiters tableside to show off the meat selection of the day. “In my restaurant since day one, you get the main ingredient, and rarely decoration,” he says.

Popular cuts include flat iron shoulder steak (*ill filletto di spalla di Manzo*), hanger (*lombatella*), ribeye and picanha. If a hunk of meat is what you’re after, look no further than prime rib. “We offer a few cuts cooked on the bone. Our beef is mostly free-range, and we also have grassfed. We’re known for longer dry ageing,” he says.

Meat is grilled in a Spanish Jospier charcoal oven, to give “a beautiful smokiness” and “crispiness on the outside”. Carne’s 400 g “Safari Platter” of several free-range game meats is popular with visitors. A plate could include impala, kudu, blesbok and black wildebeest, grilled with olive oil. Carne avoids basting, preferring to prepare steaks only with olive oil, salt and pepper. But the restaurant does provide a few sauces such as bearnaise or *salsa verde*, on the side. These are steaks with no frills. “It’s the simplicity of how we present the food.”

**Carne on Keerom**, 70 Keerom St.  
Mon to Sat 18h00-21h30 | 021 424 3460, [www.carne-sa.com](http://www.carne-sa.com);  
[@carneonkeerom](https://www.instagram.com/carneonkeerom)



## BO-VINE IN THE CITY

Bo-Vine’s second Cape Town branch opened inside a split-level Heritage Square corner in March 2025. It’s owned by hands-on operational partners Chase Charles and Gregor Bremer, who created a modern interior with earthy tones and black and white accents. “Bo-Vine is not that old-school steakhouse many of us grew up with,” says Charles. “We want to make it an experience. Obviously, an amazing meal and service, but we want to hear you also had a great time, vibey music and a really fun dinner out.”

Bo-Vine’s flagship is Bistecca Fiorentina, a 1.2 kg dry-aged Chalmar T-bone basted with rosemary, olive oil and garlic, usually shared. But “the most popular steak is definitely the ribeye”. Charles says “all ageing is done in-house”, so diners can order dry-aged (T-bone, tomahawk and wing rib) or wet-aged cuts (fillet, sirloin, picanha, ribeye, hanger steak and Karoo Wagyu ribeye). “All our meat on the bone is

Chalmar beef, which is one of the best feed lots in the country and offers amazing consistency, flavour and value,” he adds. Steaks are flame-grilled and seasoned with their signature spice mix.

There are sautéed mushrooms, onion rings, creamed spinach, boerenkaas (a Dutch cheese) mac and cheese or crispy kale as sides. In sauces, creamier bearnaise or pepper brandy vie with herby chimichurri or café de Paris butter.

If the reviews are anything to go by, the meat boards are excellent. One recent patron wrote on a Facebook restaurant group: “I am at a loss for words when trying to explain how much we enjoyed the meal. I don’t think I have every tasted meat that good ...”

**Bo-Vine In The City**, Heritage Square, 101 Hout St. Mon to Sat 12h00-23h00; Sunday 12h00-22h00 | 021 203 5800;  
[www.bovinegrillhouse.com](http://www.bovinegrillhouse.com),  
[@bovineinthecity](https://www.instagram.com/bovineinthecity)

## MERCHANT BAR & GRILL

“It’s about the art of grilling, and cooking over fire.” One floor up at Chefs Warehouse, with leather seating, old bricks and cosy fireplaces, Merchant offers mouthwatering steaks, all dry-aged and served alongside Merchant wine sauce and café de Paris butter.

In meat know-how, chef Dave Schneider is in a different league. “I was a blockman for Ryan Boon. It gave me insight into the supply chain, buying from specific farms. It’s not just looking at two steaks next to each other, it’s looking at two cows next to each other. Whether it’s wagyu or regular fat and understanding how it sits on the animal.” Merchant beef is from Napier or Greenfields in KwaZulu-Natal. “If I want beef from a specific farmer, I buy the whole cow. Or a whole hind quarter. I break it down myself. And I can age it on the bone here.” This produces optimal steaks. “I want the beef to speak for itself,” he says, brushing only with rendered beef fat, fermented koji (for umami) and salt, then grilling on “a multi-level wood-fired braai”.

Recommendations? “Our prime rib is the best part to tackle.” And this chef also rates the fillet. Perfect with a side of beef-fat roast potatoes.

**Merchant Bar & Grill**, 91 Bree St.  
Dinner on Tuesday to Saturday | 021 773 0440 [www.chefswarehouse.co.za/merchant](http://www.chefswarehouse.co.za/merchant);  
[@merchant\\_on\\_bree](https://www.instagram.com/merchant_on_bree)



## IRON STEAK AND BAR

Iron Steak and Bar opens to street level with its dining tables or booths. The steakhouse was ranked sixth in the world of the Top 10 Steakhouses by *Time Out Travel*. “Our most popular steak by far is the flat iron, cut from the shoulder. It’s our signature cut and a customer favourite thanks to its tenderness, bold flavour and excellent value. Second only to fillet in tenderness, it delivers far more flavour at a more affordable price,” says Justin Barker, executive chef of the

Pan Collection Hospitality group. “This makes it our Iron Steak flagship offering – a hidden gem that turns first-timers into regulars.” The cut is part of the restaurant’s daily steak winter special.

At the more expensive end, Barker says customers enjoy the T-bone or a marbled ribeye, serving one or shareable between two. Iron Steak prepares steaks on a cast iron oven and grill using Nambian hardwood. Steaks are all finished in a basting butter infused with rendered beef fat, rosemary and garlic.

Dressed mixed greens are served with all steaks, to balance any richness. On the side, diners can order hand-cut fries in wagyu beef fat, creamy mash with rich red wine *jus* or their popular truffle leek mac and cheese. Sauces include peppercorn, truffle aioli or a tangy chimichurri which Barker declares is “great with flat iron”.

**Iron Steak and Bar**, 114 Bree St.  
Open Monday to Sunday 12h00-23h00 | 021 422 1175; [www.ironsteak.co.za](http://www.ironsteak.co.za); [@ironsteaksa](https://www.instagram.com/ironsteaksa)

# WHAT'S ON IN TOWN

Turn up the heat in town this winter and celebrate art, design, music, and culture.



For more event info,  
visit *City Views*  
on Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/  
CityViewsCapeTown](https://www.facebook.com/CityViewsCapeTown).



## TOTALSPORTS WOMEN'S RACE

The iconic Totalsports Women's Race is South Africa's largest sporting celebration of Women's Month. Runners and walkers take to the streets of Cape Town in a 5-km or 10-km race. More than just a race, it celebrates the strength, resilience and camaraderie that defines women. The route shows off Cape Town and all its beauty, finishing at the Grand Parade. Gather a group of friends, pull on your running shoes and join the sea of athletes.

**Where:** Darling St

**When:** 9 August 2025

[www.totalsports-womensrace.co.za](http://www.totalsports-womensrace.co.za)

## CHICAGO

The smash-hit musical *Chicago* makes a return to South Africa. This sizzling, jazz-filled spectacle brings the roaring 1920s to life with its thrilling tale of fame, fortune, and all that jazz. Featuring iconic songs like *All That Jazz*, *Cell Block Tango*, and *Razzle Dazzle*, this production showcases a talented all-South African cast, including Kiruna-Lind Devar as Roxie Hart, Samantha Peo as Velma Kelly, and Jonathan Roxmouth as Billy Flynn.

**Where:** Artscape Theatre Centre, D.F. Malan St

**When:** 27 August - 28 September 2025

[www.artscape.co.za/event/chicago](http://www.artscape.co.za/event/chicago)



## CAPE TOWN PHOTOGRAPHY FESTIVAL

In September, the Mother City becomes the lens through which the world views identity, heritage and memory. Extraordinary photographs will be highlighted in historically important and contemporary exhibitions in major galleries and cultural spaces in town and across the city. The focus is on the transformative power of photography in documenting, interpreting and preserving heritage. There will also be a talks programme, educational workshops and projections in public spaces.

**Where:** Various galleries including Gallery F and WORLDART Gallery

**When:** 4-27 September 2025

[www.capetownphotofest.co.za](http://www.capetownphotofest.co.za)



## CANDLELIGHT CONCERTS

Candlelight in Cape Town creates candlelit tribute concerts to classical and contemporary music, from Vivaldi to Coldplay. Experience the magic of a live, multi-sensory musical experience at awe-inspiring locations in the city. The Star Theatre at the District Six Homecoming Centre will host several concerts, including *A Tribute to Coldplay on Strings*, *Vivaldi's Four Seasons*, *Tribute to the Beatles*, *Coldplay vs Imagine Dragons* and a *Tribute to Fleetwood Mac*.

**Where:** District Six Homecoming Centre, cnr Buitenkant & Caledon Sts

**When:** Until 18 December 2025

[www.feverup.com/en/cape-town-south-africa/candlelight](http://www.feverup.com/en/cape-town-south-africa/candlelight)

## SURF EXPO AFRICA

South Africa's first dedicated ocean sports and beach lifestyle trade show is set to be a bold, high-energy affair. Expect a myriad brands, retailers, SMMEs and thousands of enthusiastic ocean lovers from all walks of life, and all corners of the land. The focus is on the blue economy and the trade show will blend product showcases, industry networking and immersive beach and ocean culture (that includes swimming, paddling, diving and surfing) into an exciting three-day must-visit experience.

**Where:** CTICC 2, cnr Heerengracht & Rua Bartholomeu Dias

**When:** 28-30 November 2025

[www.surfexpoafrika.com](http://www.surfexpoafrika.com)

## COPPÉLIA

Coppélia will be presented by Cape Town City Ballet in October. Characterised by enchanting music, exquisite costumes and a charming plot, it tells the love story of Franz, his fiancée Swanilda and Coppélia, a beautiful life-like doll created by eccentric inventor, Dr Coppélius. When Franz falls for Coppélia, Swanilda takes action. Performances will be accompanied by the Cape Town Philharmonic Orchestra.

**Where:** Artscape Theatre Centre D.F. Malan St

**When:** From 17 October 2025

[www.capetowncityballet.org.za](http://www.capetowncityballet.org.za)



## OPEN BOOK FESTIVAL

Since its inception, the Open Book Festival has created the opportunity for diverse communities to engage in meaningful conversations. This vibrant literary event gathers authors, readers, and literary enthusiasts for a three-day celebration of literature. Featuring author panel discussions, readings, and poetry performances, the festival nurtures the art of storytelling, enabling South Africans to gain a better understanding of each other and promote empathy.

**Where:** District Six Homecoming Centre, cnr Buitenkant & Caledon Sts

**When:** 5-7 September 2025

[www.openbookfestival.co.za](http://www.openbookfestival.co.za)



# THE TOUGH TIMES

Brought to you by the Cape Town Central City Improvement District (CCID)



01 WINTER SHELTER BEDS



03 ANNAH'S JOURNEY



04 HAVENS FOR THE HOMELESS

A CityViews  
**PULL-OUT**  
Special  
Supplement

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Issues surrounding homelessness in the Cape Town CBD are complex. Undaunted, the experienced team of the CCID's Social Development department makes a positive impact every day. Not every job comes with an office or a neat routine. Some work is done on sidewalks or on street corners. For this small team of dedicated field workers, supporting people living on the street in town is more than a calling.

"It's incredibly rewarding when someone asks for help and to be taken to a shelter so they can change their lives," says auxiliary field worker, **Headman Sirala-rala**. "It gives me a good feeling to know I've helped someone get off the street."

For night peer support co-ordinator, **Sbu Simana**, the transformation he

witnesses keeps him going. "You see someone move into a stable life and it gives you hope."

Trust is the cornerstone of this work, says auxiliary social worker **Herbert November**. His approach is simple but powerful: "I'm myself, that's how I connect. I let my guard down, and then they do the same. Trust sets people's energy free." It's clear Herbert's presence is a quiet source of comfort and connection to clients.

For **Abygail Arendse Dyani**, the work began with a single moment. "In 2006, I had my first engagement with a homeless person. Their brokenness stirred something in me." Since then, she has devoted her career to helping people heal. "The idea of someone becoming whole – that's what drives me."

Leading the team is CCID Social Development manager **Tara Gerardy-Bissolati**, whose focus is centred on a proactive outreach strategy to ensure the department's efforts are both comprehensive and responsive to the diverse experiences of homeless individuals and substance users in the CBD.

The CCID has strong collaborative relationships with key NGO partners and leverages their expertise to serve the needs of the homeless.

"One initiative currently in the pipeline is a mobile mental health project. This will allow us to bring psychiatric services directly to clients on the street, enabling treatment during outreach and helping to reduce the burden on hospitals," says Gerardy-Bissolati.

The department will continue to build on the success of its peer-to-peer programme by recruiting new peers (formerly homeless individuals who are now stable) and providing them with accommodation at The Haven Moira Henderson House.

In addition, the CCID's partnership with Streetscapes on a needle-exchange project will reinforce a proactive approach to addressing public health concerns on the street.



## WARM BEDS: A WINTER RESPONSE

During the winter months, the inner city's homeless population faces harsh conditions. Many individuals without shelter are exposed to the elements, leading to increased risks of illness and hardship.

Addressing the need for increased support, CCID Social Development has rolled out its annual Winter Readiness Programme which includes:

- Expanding the shelter services at partner NGOs by sponsoring an additional 75 beds over the winter months. Youth Solutions Africa has added 25 beds, while The Haven Night Shelter Napier, District Six Night Shelter, and The Haven Moira Henderson House will collectively receive 50 additional beds. The Haven Moira Henderson has received 10 triple bunk beds to accommodate

the increased number of people seeking shelter during winter.

- Providing meals twice a week to those in need through a feeding scheme in collaboration with The Haven at the Artscape Theatre Centre.



ABOVE AND RIGHT: A CCID feeding scheme provides meals to the homeless twice a week.

### DONATE NOW TO HELP THE HOMELESS

- SMS "give" to 38088 to donate R10.\*\*
- Download the free SnapScan app onto your smartphone and scan the code below to make your donation.

\*\* Depending on your service provider, Show You Care receives about R8. A 3 % admin fee goes to SnapScan. For detailed Ts&Cs visit [www.showyoucare.co.za](http://www.showyoucare.co.za)



THROUGH SnapScan

# FROM THE STREETS TO SUPPORT

The CCID's ground-breaking peer programme is not only expanding the reach of social services but it's restoring dignity, one connection at a time.

By Angela Kelly



**CLOCKWISE, FROM ABOVE:** CCID field worker Headman Sirala-rala engages with Bolingo, one of the first peer field workers; the present incumbents, all formerly homeless individuals; Tara Gerardy-Bissolati, head of CCID Social Development, and Matthew Kempthorne, City of Cape Town councillor and chairperson of Subcouncil 16, chat to a peer field worker on Greenmarket Square.

If we are truly to address homelessness and substance use, we must see the person before the problem. This is the bold philosophy at the heart of the Cape Town Central City Improvement District's (CCID) peer-led programme, developed in collaboration with one of the organisation's partner NGOs, Streetscapes.

This innovative "peer-to-peer" approach trains former street-dwellers and recovering substance users as frontline field workers, who go on to serve as critical lifelines for others still living on the street. Equipped with empathy and firsthand experience, these 14 peer workers are transforming lives by reaching those who are too often ignored or overlooked by society.

Every day, and often through the night, they walk the streets in town, providing personalised, practical, and emotional support to those in need. They help secure beds in shelters,

arrange clinic visits, assist with ID and SASSA applications, guide people on addressing substance-abuse challenges, assist with wound care, respond to opioid overdoses and access job opportunities.

The stakes are high. Each winter, the CCID's Social Development department worries that many of the homeless in the CBD may not survive the season's bitter cold. For those without shelter, winter brings not only discomfort, but real danger, exacerbated by a chronic shortage of shelter beds and support services.

Yet, with the peer-led approach, help is closer than ever before.

"The peers have walked this road themselves. They've come through it, and because of that, they bring a level of empathy that's impossible to replicate," says Tara Gerardy-Bissolati, manager of the CCID's Social Development department.

## WHY IT MATTERS

While the programme (launched just over two years ago) initially centred on job creation, its core aim has evolved to equipping formerly homeless individuals – who have completed a rehabilitation programme and reached stability – with practical skills like those of field workers or social auxiliary workers.

Under the guidance of the CCID Social Development department's experienced field workers, participants are supported in their personal growth and encouraged to pursue further education or training.

Gerardy-Bissolati says the aim is to develop a succession pipeline of peers across the Cape Town CBD. "The programme was developed using a harm-reduction approach, a model of treatment used for addressing substance-use disorders. This approach meets our clients where they are at, and

involves practical strategies aimed at reducing the negative consequences associated with substance use."

## WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK

Working in shifts around the clock, peers are trained to handle overdoses, medical emergencies, conduct behaviour change interventions and support clients in adhering to chronic medication through regular clinic check-ins.

There are two peer teams that meet every morning and afternoon to check in and debrief. "It often starts with something as simple as asking how they're doing," says Gerardy-Bissolati. "More than a lack of services, what's often missing is human connection."

For the peers themselves, the opportunity is rewarding. Peer field worker Chuma Dyasoni says that after years of substance use, it's time for him to "give back". "Working with the CCID has given me the opportunity to serve my community." He is not immune to the challenges, though. "You need to be strong and have a lot of energy to work with the homeless!"

Another peer, Fabian Pillay, agrees. "Not everyone on the street is willing to change or accept help but we are here to guide and motivate them."

## THE WAY FORWARD

Tackling South Africa's challenges of substance use, and homelessness requires more than services. It demands a "people-first" approach.

Through this programme, the CCID Social Development department has significantly extended its reach, creating meaningful pathways to support and offer stability for vulnerable individuals. Since its launch in 2023, peer field workers have interacted with 3 827 homeless individuals, and in 2024 alone, they conducted 5 039 interventions.

Success, says Gerardy-Bissolati, is measured by the progress of the individual peers. "For peers who are still on their journey of personal development and reintegration into society, it's the small but significant shifts in behaviour that show they are growing and are stable."

# ANNAH'S JOURNEY

The remarkable story of Annah Mooki is one from heartbreak to hope. Today, this field worker of The Haven Night Shelter is a shining example of how a groundbreaking initiative like the CCID's peer field worker programme can change the course of someone's destiny.

By Angela Kelly

Annah Mooki's journey began in the wake of a personal crisis. After her husband died, the 56-year-old Cape Town mother started noticing worrying changes in her daughter's behaviour.

The child was eight at the time, but Mooki only realised something was wrong when her daughter turned 15. "She was getting thinner and thinner, and we were fighting every day," says Mooki. Her daughter was using substances.

Determined to help her daughter, Mooki began researching everything she could about addiction. But she didn't stop there, her mission expanded. "I didn't want my daughter to die. I needed to understand why people use substances and how I could help."

She began cooking soup for the homeless and walking into some of the most vulnerable areas in the Cape Town CBD to speak directly to those living on the street.

Eventually, Mooki left her job as a carer to commit herself full-time to this mission. With nowhere else to turn, she and her daughter moved into The Haven Moira Henderson House. It was during this time that Mooki encountered the work of the CCID's Social Development department and its manager, Tara Gerardy-Bissolati.

## RARE COMBINATION

Gerardy-Bissolati quickly recognised Mooki's rare combination of lived experience, passion, and courage. "She didn't flinch at the challenges. She already had deep connections in the community and a drive to make a difference," she explains.

Mooki completed a First Aid course, a harm-reduction course and underwent behaviour-change training through the department. Once trained, she took to the streets – not as an outsider, but as someone who had lived through similar pain.

"I know the signs of a broken person, because I was broken too," she says. "People on the street trust me because they know I've been there. I just couldn't rest. Too many children are dying. I needed to help."

One of her most powerful success stories involved a young man who had lived on the streets for 10 years and was suicidal. "He didn't have an ID, he was addicted, and his family didn't even know if he was alive," she recalls.

"I helped him get medical treatment, sorted out his ID, and eventually traced his family. Today, he's working at a pizza restaurant in Mpumalanga. That's one of my proudest moments."

## A LIFE-CHANGING INITIATIVE

The CCID's peer field worker programme is nothing short of revolutionary. The initial aim, says Gerardy-Bissolati, was job creation. "But it evolved into something much deeper, which is equipping

people who've successfully exited homelessness with skills similar to those of a field worker or auxiliary social worker to create sustainable change."

Mooki was mentored by the CCID's Social Development team and has since completed a counselling qualification through UCT. She's now pursuing a social auxiliary worker course to formalise her work in the field.

"The peer programme changed my life," she says. "It motivated me to build a future for myself and my daughter. But the biggest reward is seeing people get off the street, stop using drugs, and reconnect with their families. The programme works."

In March 2024, Mooki officially joined The Haven Night Shelter as a full-time field worker, continuing her mission to help others find their way back from the brink, just as she and her daughter have done.



## CAPE TOWN CBD SOCIAL SERVICES GUIDE

Here's how to help someone who is homeless

### CCID Social Development

[www.capetownccid.org](http://www.capetownccid.org)  
13<sup>th</sup> floor, One Thibault  
Cnr Long St & Hans Strijdom Ave  
021 286 0830

### Shelter space

**The Haven Night Shelter**  
[www.haven.org.za](http://www.haven.org.za)

**The Haven Napier Street**  
2 Napier St  
021 421 6219

**The Haven District Six**  
20 Selkirk St  
021 465 1310

**The Haven Moira Henderson House**  
107 Chapel St, Woodstock  
Second Phase Shelter  
021 461 2533

### Mother and child

**Youth Solutions Africa**  
[www.ysafrica.wordpress.com](http://www.ysafrica.wordpress.com)  
Russell St, District Six  
074 067 5747

### Shower facilities

**The Homestead**  
[www.homestead.org.za](http://www.homestead.org.za)  
150 Stand St  
021 419 9763

### Boys under 17 years

**Salesians Institute Youth Projects**  
[www.salesianyouth.org](http://www.salesianyouth.org)  
2 Somerset Rd  
021 425 1450

### Girls under 17 years

**The Haven Night Shelter**  
See details above

**The Hope Exchange**  
[www.thehopeexchange.org](http://www.thehopeexchange.org)  
14A Roeland St  
021 461 5508

### Clean clothes/blankets

**The Hope Exchange**  
See details on the left

**The Haven Night Shelter**  
See details on the left

### Coffee or a meal

**Service Dining Rooms**  
[www.sdr.org.za](http://www.sdr.org.za)  
82 Canterbury St  
021 465 2390

### Medical assistance

**District Six Clinic**  
31 Primrose St,  
District Six  
021 833 5400

**Somerset Hospital**  
Portwood Rd  
021 402 6911

**Hope Street Dental Clinic**  
Hope St  
021 465 4017

### Skills development / job opportunities

**The Hope Exchange**  
See details on the left

**Staatwerk**  
[www.staatwerk.org.za](http://www.staatwerk.org.za)  
Cnr Rose and Castle Sts  
021 425 0140

**Streetscapes**  
[www.streetscapes.org.za](http://www.streetscapes.org.za)  
10 Kent St, District Six  
087 163 2961

### Refugee assistance

**Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town**  
See details on the right

### Substance abuse treatment

**Cape Town Drug Counselling Centre**  
[www.d7.westerncape.gov.za](http://www.d7.westerncape.gov.za)  
1 Roman Rd, Observatory  
021 447 8026

### Counselling

**The Hope Exchange**  
See details on the left

**Scalabrini Centre of Cape Town**  
[www.scalabrini.org.za](http://www.scalabrini.org.za)  
47 Commercial St  
021 465 6433

**The Trauma Centre**  
[www.traumacentre.org.za](http://www.traumacentre.org.za)  
126 Chapel St, District Six  
021 465 7373

### Legal assistance

**Legal Aid South Africa**  
[www.legal-aid.co.za](http://www.legal-aid.co.za)  
3rd floor, SA Reserve Bank,  
60 St Georges Mall  
0800 110 110 / 021 426 4126

**Lawyers for Human Rights**  
[www.lhr.org.za](http://www.lhr.org.za)  
4th floor, Vunani Chambers,  
33 Church St  
021 424 8561

# THE POINT ABOUT COLLECTING SHARPS

NGO Streetscapes' Needle Team Project promotes public health through dignified work.

By Angela Kelly

In the heart of Cape Town, where homelessness and addiction meet public health concerns, something is being done to offer hope and healing.

The Needle Team Project, implemented by CCID NGO partner Streetscapes as part of its comprehensive job readiness programme, plays a crucial dual role: it provides a pathway out of homelessness for its participants, while addressing a pressing public health issue, particularly in the CBD.

Working closely with the CCID's Social Development department, the forward-thinking NGO provides a vital service to the people involved and also to the broader community.

## CRITICAL PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN

The project employs homeless people who are tasked with collecting discarded needles in public spaces. They are offered a stipend for their work while addressing a critical public health concern. In doing so, the project not only contributes to the cleanliness and safety in the CBD but also opens the door to personal transformation and social reintegration for those involved.



TOP AND ABOVE: A participant picks up discarded sharps in the CBD; the special container used to collect the needles.

Discarded needles are often found in alleyways, parks, pavements, and other shared public spaces and pose a significant risk to communities, especially sanitation workers and members of the public who may come into contact with them unknowingly. The needle team helps to safeguard the public from potential needle-stick injuries, the spread of infectious diseases like Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV, and the psychological discomfort associated with visible drug paraphernalia in public spaces. By removing these hazardous items, the team plays a frontline role in creating cleaner, safer, and more dignified urban spaces.

The CCID's Social Development manager, Tara Gerardy-Bissolati, says the project's impact extends beyond the collection of discarded needles.

## MAKING AN IMPACT

"While their work significantly contributes to public health and safety, members of this team are also supported through a structured programme of psychosocial care that addresses the deeper challenges they face," she says.

These include counselling, group therapy, housing, and life skills training aimed at addressing the root causes of homelessness and substance use. The interventions deal with trauma, mental health challenges, substance abuse and social exclusion.

"The project fosters routine, purpose, and a sense of belonging, which are essential elements for recovery and reintegration. The combination of dignified work, daily structure, and psychosocial care forms a cornerstone of Streetscapes' holistic model, restoring self-worth, rebuilding trust, and preparing participants for long-term employment opportunities," says Gerardy-Bissolati.

The project has proved how inclusive employment can improve public safety while changing lives, and that with the right support, even the most marginalised individuals can make a meaningful contribution to society. By recognising the potential of those often excluded from formal work, Streetscapes and the CCID are doing more than cleaning city streets, they are also restoring dignity, building resilience, and helping to mend the social fabric of the communities.

## LEADING WITH HEART

Deeply committed to helping those less fortunate, Shaddie Valayadum finds solace in faith and family. The pastor and head of The Haven Night Shelter talks about what makes him get up in the morning.

By Angela Kelly

### What personal values have influenced your work with the homeless?

For the past 25 years, my family and I have been deeply committed to helping others, whether through meals, ministry, or family reunifications. We once operated a community kitchen where we prepared meals for 3 000 people daily. What began as a personal passion has since evolved into my life's work.

### What's one of the most powerful stories you've witnessed?

Earlier this year, two people met at The Haven Kensington shelter and fell in love. They eventually moved out and found work but returned in March and asked me to marry them, right there at The Haven, where their journey began. We quickly arranged a ceremony, at

which I had the honour of officiating, and they exchanged their vows. They weren't ashamed of their humble beginnings; they wanted to celebrate their love where it all started. It was a highlight of my career.

### How do you stay motivated despite the daily challenges surrounding homelessness?

Through worship and prayer. When I come to work, I come geared up. And when the day ends, I return to my family and my dogs. Having a solid support structure and partnering with like-minded people is essential. "Iron sharpens iron." We need to listen to and support each other. I'm grateful to share such a strong and supportive relationship with the CCID's Social Development team.



The Haven Night Shelter CEO Shaddie Valayadum.

### How has collaborating with the CCID strengthened your efforts?

It's essential for people who understand the heartbeat of the inner city to join forces. From day one, there was a natural synergy with the team. We don't just collaborate – we operate as one, united in mindset and purpose. Together, we work on how to make a real impact. The homeless crisis is larger than any one organisation. But by standing together and refusing to give up, we're making a difference.

### What legacy do you hope to leave through your leadership at The Haven?

I hope to carry forward the spirit of Ubuntu – it's not about us, it's about what we can accomplish together. This work isn't a competition; it's a collaboration. We learn every day, and humility is key. The goal is not to elevate The Haven but to find lasting solutions for the homeless, because no one should have to live on the streets. Working together in trust, as we do with the CCID, allows that vision to grow.