

CEO'S REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

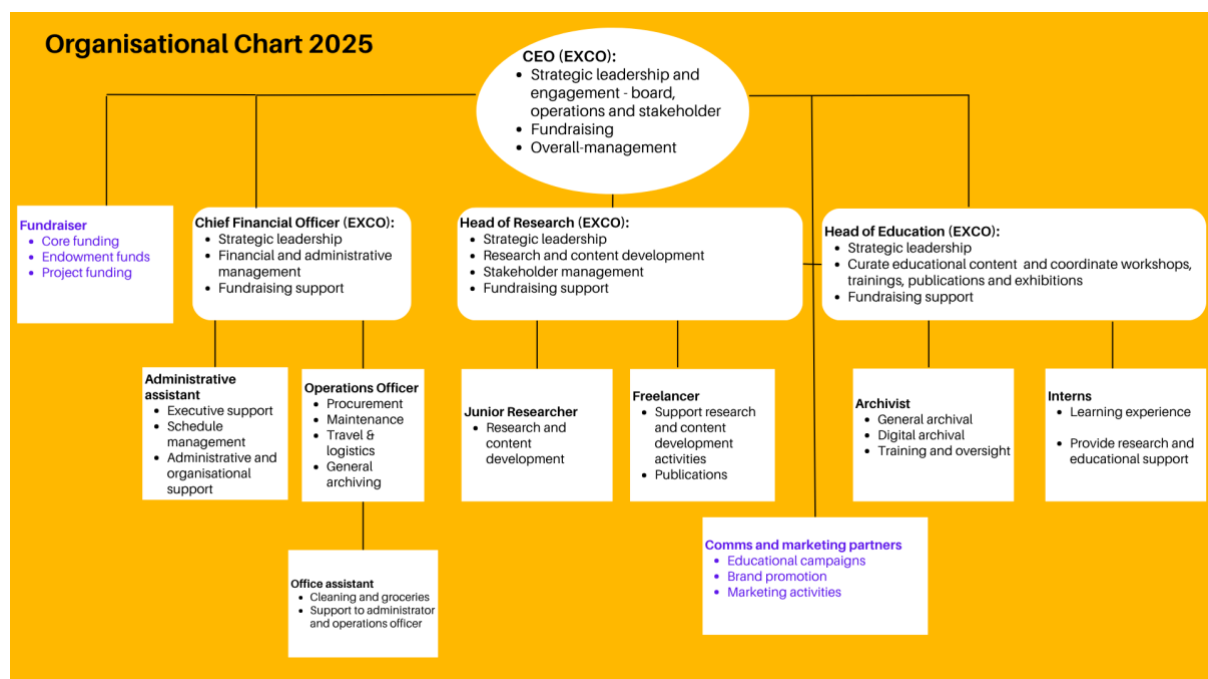
5 JUNE 2025

INTRODUCTION: UP, UP AND AWAY!

Trustees are aware that WeThePeopleSA increased its capacity during this time by recruiting Irfaan Mangera as our Head of Education, Fani Miya as our Junior Researcher, and Podium as our marketing partner. In addition, we are joined by two interns, supported by the Assured Vocational Skills Institute (AVSI) and the Auwal Socio-Economic Research Institute (ASRI) Future Leaders Programme.

I am also pleased to report that we have recruited a fundraiser, Ms Julia Benadie Smith – a senior investment banking professional who worked at the Bank of America for 15 years.

Our current organisational chart is as follows:



As the report below, covering the period from March to May 2025, demonstrates, increased capacity has enhanced our productivity and reach.

1. CONSTITUTIONAL LITERACY

1.1. The 490: Oral History Project



The 490 Oral History Project remains a cornerstone of our strategic initiatives as we continue to capture the untold stories behind South Africa's Constitution-making process. Since its launch in October 2024, we have successfully filmed 38 interviews with members of the Constitutional Assembly and their functionaries. By the end of June 2025, we anticipate

completing a total of 48 interviews, surpassing the funders' mid-year target of 40 interviews. Through these interviews, we have uncovered valuable partnership and fundraising opportunities, inspired by the widespread support that the Constitutional Assembly received. As we approach the 30th anniversary of the Constitution in 2026, these stories will serve as powerful narratives to drive our educational and fundraising initiatives, celebrating the legacy and impact of South Africa's democracy.

1.2. Saturday school: Constitutional literacy Workshops on the Hill



On 17 May 2025, we launched our pilot Saturday School series in collaboration with Constitution Hill Development Company, the Constitutional Court, and Alt Advisory, offering immersive constitutional literacy workshops for Grade 10 and 11 learners from non-fee-paying schools in Gauteng.

For two Saturdays a month until the end of October, up to 50 learners and two educators from selected schools participate in a half-day programme that features a keynote address by a Constitutional Court Justice, a guided tour of Constitution Hill, and an interactive learning session on the Bill of Rights, civic duties, and democratic participation.

On the day of the launch, 41 learners and three educators from Phumelela College, an inner-city school in Johannesburg, attended. We had the privilege of being joined by five

justices of the Court, potential funders, and partner organisations. We were also honoured to have two of our trustees, Mr Bulelani Ngcuka and Advocate Mojanku Gumbi, join us.

On 31 May, we held our second workshop on the Hill with a school from Tembisa, led by Justice Kollapen.

1.3. COSATU + Legal Resource Centre



In a strategic move to strengthen working-class connections around constitutional rights, WeThePeopleSA partnered with the COSATU Alex branch and the Legal Resources Centre (LRC) on 24 May 2025 to host a Constitutional Education and Accountability workshop. Held at Alex High School, the session focused on education, labour rights, social and economic rights in the Constitution, and the roles of the Judiciary and the people in defending the collective rights of ordinary people.

We distributed Constitutions to 100 learners and conducted the session with at least 80 Grade 12 learners. This partnership is blossoming, and we aim to strengthen our relationships with other unions and civil society groups.

1.4. Union Against Hunger

In support of the growing campaign to realise the constitutional right to access food, WeThePeopleSA partnered with the *Union Against Hunger (UAH)* to engage in two major community dialogues in May 2025—held in Vosloorus and Lenasia—as part of a national mobilisation towards food justice. These dialogues were framed by sections 27 and 28 of the Constitution, which enshrine the right to sufficient food and nutrition.

At the Vosloorus dialogue on 27 May 2025, WeThePeopleSA's Head of Education delivered a session on how the Constitution can be used to assert food rights. The following day in Lenasia, we joined a panel with the South African Federation of Trade Unions, Food for Mzansi, and Real Reform to unpack how legal and policy gaps contribute to everyday hunger and what constitutional accountability looks like in practice.

Our involvement signifies a strategic shift to integrate constitutional literacy into grassroots struggles, ensuring that communities understand their rights and are empowered to assert them. We distributed copies of the Constitution to community members who attended.

1.5. Partnerships

1.5.1. Be The Future Foundation



In 2024, WeThePeopleSA entered into a collaborative partnership with Be The Future Foundation, a dynamic youth-led and youth-run organisation committed to empowering learners in quintile 1 and 2 schools across the West Rand. As part of the partnership, WeThePeopleSA committed to providing educational content on the Constitution and sponsoring the distribution of 100 printed Constitutions each quarter. This initiative aimed to enhance civic literacy and promote awareness of the rights and responsibilities enshrined in the South African Constitution. To date, a total of 400 Constitutions have been successfully delivered and disseminated to learners in 120 schools, reaching 2 to 3 classes per school.

Through its school activation programmes, Be The Future Foundation has facilitated workshops in schools such as Kgothlang Secondary, Simunye Secondary, Lukhanyo Secondary, A.B. Phokompe Secondary, T.M. Letlhake Senior Secondary, Hoërskool Westonaria High, and Ithuteng Secondary School. In 2025, their footprint expanded through a strategic partnership with Rainbow Leaders, enabling them to extend their reach to schools in Soweto, the Vaal, and additional areas in the West Rand. This expansion presents a significant opportunity for WeThePeopleSA to scale up the distribution of constitutional educational materials and deepen youth engagement in Gauteng. The success of this partnership highlights the value of youth-driven civic initiatives and the importance of sustained collaboration in fostering a generation of informed and engaged citizens.

1.5.2. Values 20 media launch

WeThePeopleSA played a hosting role at the V20 South Africa media launch, held on 6 May 2025, as part of the G20 engagement processes. Representing youth voices in the global conversation on values-based leadership, our intervention focused on the necessity of embedding constitutional values—dignity, equality, and accountability—into the policy and governance frameworks to be adopted and utilised for the G20 Presidency.

Our contribution emphasised the use of the Constitution and the process of creating the Constitution as a guiding framework for fostering ethical, participatory leadership. As part of the launch, a partnership was formalised to localise global V20 principles through our work and the ongoing Presidency of the G20. In supporting this initiative, we are exploring other events and programmes to help shape the research and inputs into the final V20 communiqué.

1.5.3. Heroes Academy



In a significant stride towards advancing constitutional education, our partner, Heroes Academy, has officially integrated a Constitutional Literacy Workshop into its Grade 11 curriculum. This development follows the provision of WeThePeopleSA educational materials shared with Heroes Academy in 2024. The curriculum was finalised in January 2025 and presented to the WeThePeopleSA team for review.

By March 2025, the curriculum was introduced to workshop facilitators to familiarise them with key constitutional concepts before rolling out the workshops in participating schools. Initial reactions from some facilitators reflected concerns that teaching the Constitution might be perceived as promoting government 'propaganda'. Warawadee Sukonpongpaio-Harbich, the Founder of Heroes Academy, organised a special session with Justice Albie Sachs to address these concerns. His insights not only deepened the facilitators' understanding of constitutional literacy, but also reshaped their perceptions, resulting in a newfound appreciation for South Africa's democratic values and the sacrifices made to achieve them.

The Grade 11 Constitutional Literacy Workshops officially launched in May 2025, reaching learners at three schools in Cape Town: Oscar Mpetha High School in Philippi, Inkwenkwezi Secondary School in Dunoon, and Sinethemba Secondary School in Nyanga. As part of the programme, Constitution booklets shared by WeThePeopleSA were distributed in both English and isiXhosa, ensuring accessibility and engagement. Looking ahead, the programme will expand with a holiday workshop scheduled for June 2025 at the Langa Love Life Centre in Cape Town, where approximately 100 Grade 11 learners are expected to participate. This initiative

marks a significant step in empowering young people in South Africa with constitutional knowledge, fostering a deeper understanding of their rights, and promoting civic engagement within their communities.

1.5.4. Values in Education DBE



As part of promoting the launch of our Life Orientation curriculum for grades 7 to 10 in March 2025, we formed a strategic partnership with the Values in Education Department of the Johannesburg North District within the Gauteng Department of Education. This collaboration enabled our participation in the 2025 Johannesburg North District Human Rights Day Commemoration at St. Barnabas School of Specialisation, which hosted 140 attendees from 18 quintile 1 and 2 schools. WeThePeopleSA conducted a Constitutional Literacy Workshop to educate learners about Human Rights Day, the Constitution, and the story of the 490 through engaging presentations and animated videos. Special guests, our former trustee Ms. Joyce Seroke and her colleague Dr. Lillian Cingo, a health rights activist, shared impactful stories of resilience and advocacy, giving students real-world perspectives on our journey from Apartheid to democracy.

The event was highly impactful, showcasing enthusiastic participation from learners during interactive Q&A sessions, where prizes were awarded for their contributions. WeThePeopleSA also managed to distribute 120 copies of the Constitution to the learners and educators present. Feedback from learners and educators was overwhelmingly positive, emphasising the workshop's success in raising awareness of the Constitution. The Values in Education Department also expressed interest in further collaboration, including integrating WeThePeopleSA's curriculum into their programmes. This signified a promising step towards enhanced constitutional literacy in schools within the Johannesburg North District.

1.5.5. Know Your Constitution Handbook with SECTION27

In a strategic collaboration with SECTION27, WeThePeopleSA has undertaken the review, update, and co-publication of *the Know Your Constitution Handbook*, an essential public education resource initially developed by SECTION27 over a decade ago. Recognising the ongoing relevance of this tool, the initiative aims to modernise its content with updates to case law, provide historical context of the Constitution, and include links to civil society resources, Chapter 9 institutions, and government departments to ensure it remains accessible, engaging, and relevant to contemporary audiences—particularly the youth of South Africa.



To kick-start the project, WeThePeopleSA and SECTION27 co-hosted 13 law students from the University of Pennsylvania's Black Law Students Association (BLSA) from 9 March 2025 for a week-long research and drafting sprint. This collaboration brought fresh international perspectives to updating and simplifying legal and constitutional references, language, and case studies. The joint editing and development process is ongoing, with the updated handbook scheduled for publication and launch in September 2025, in alignment with Heritage Month. The revised edition will feature relatable, real-life scenarios illustrating how the Constitution is applied in everyday life. This partnership reinforces WeThePeopleSA's commitment to civic empowerment through accessible constitutional education.

1.5.6. Civics Academy



In March 2025, WeThePeopleSA was approached by Civics Academy with a request for printed Constitutions to support their civic education training programme for 850 Metro Police cadets in Cape Town. They highlighted that they had approached the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development with no success, as there is a nationwide shortage of Constitutions. In response, WeThePeopleSA endeavoured to develop our own cover for the Constitution and printed 2,000 copies for our outreach work. We donated 1,000 copies of the Constitution to Civics Academy's project—900 in English and 100 in isiXhosa—to ensure that trainees could access and engage with the foundational values and constitutional rights. The Constitutions have been integrated into the training materials, directly contributing to a broader understanding of democratic principles within law enforcement structures.

This cadet training programme consists of two-day workshops held over a period of 10 weeks, from 22 April to 1 July, aimed at 30-45 metro police cadets for each workshop. These workshops utilise engaging and practical learning formats, including videos, case studies, and group discussions. The sessions focus on the Constitution, democratic governance, local government, citizen participation, and policing within a constitutional democracy. Their training programme with the Cape Town Metro Police Academy demonstrates a strong commitment to building public sector capacity grounded in constitutional knowledge. By supporting this programme with printed copies of the Constitution, we amplify our mission to capacitate the people of South Africa to know, own, and protect the Constitution.

2. DEVELOPING CONSTITUTION HILL AS A HERITAGE SITE

2.1. Human Rights Festival



At the 2025 Human Rights Festival, WeThePeopleSA launched its new Life Orientation CAPS-aligned constitutional literacy curriculum in partnership with The Elements, an initiative of Kingdom Kome, as the headline event of the Education Dialogue. The launch featured contributions from three "Kid Presidents" (ages 13–17) who helped the audience envision a future led by constitutionally literate and civically engaged youth. The keynote address was delivered by Advocate Palesa Ncholo, one of our 490 project interviewees who served on the Independent Panel of Constitutional Experts of the Constitutional Assembly at just 31 years old. Her inspiring reflection on the Constitution's making underscored the relevance and urgency of constitutional education for today's learners.

The event attracted educators, representatives, and learners from seven schools, 23 civil society organisations, and officials from the Department of Education at both district and provincial levels. The response to the curriculum was overwhelmingly positive, with multiple stakeholders expressing immediate interest in adopting the materials for their own programmes. Early discussions are underway for broader collaboration, including potential engagement at the national level of the DBE to scale the curriculum rollout. The speeches and youth participation underscored the curriculum's potential to empower young people with knowledge of their rights and responsibilities.

Beyond the main launch, WeThePeopleSA hosted an interactive stall throughout the festival weekend, engaging the public with educational games, distributing free copies of the Constitution, and sharing the story of South Africa's constitutional journey. As part of our

Public Artworks Project, a mock voting station was established, encouraging festival-goers to share their vision for the country's future—feedback that would help shape the art installations reflecting democracy and the 1994 elections in the museum. A photo booth also captured public sentiments for inclusion in the “WeThePeopleSA Museum”, providing a creative space for citizens to reflect on the state of democracy today.

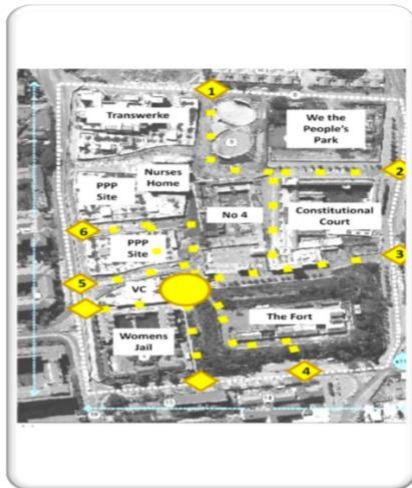
2.2. Public Artworks Programme

The Public Artworks Programme (PAP) has fully entered the art development phase, with all commissioned works now underway—some nearing finalisation while the last artworks of the project are in early development. Two successful adjudication processes have been completed, with the final one pending for the artwork centred on Nelson Mandela, the 1994 elections, and the Constitutional Assembly. The project has also welcomed Podium, our new marketing arm, which is developing a proposal for a virtual launch and exhibition to mark the programme's completion. This approach addresses construction delays at the Visitor's Centre, providing a platform to honour the artists involved and generate public anticipation ahead of the physical unveiling. A post-production logistics plan has been drafted, in which all completed artworks will be professionally crated, insured, and stored by CHDC until the point of installation.

The project, managed by Trinity Session, is on course for completion by June or July 2025. We take pride in the creative excellence and collaborative spirit demonstrated throughout this process, along with the meaningful development opportunities provided to local community artists. PAP has not only celebrated artistic expression but has also acted as a vehicle for constitutional education and public memory. Each artwork is designed to provoke critical reflection and dialogue about South Africa's journey to democracy, ensuring that our constitutional path is not only remembered but visually honoured and publicly engaged with for generations to come.

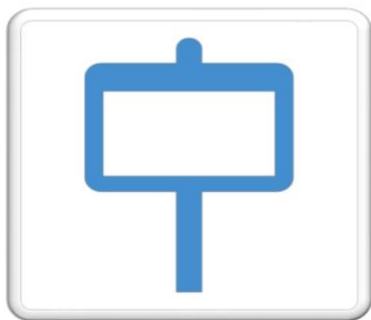
2.2.1. Placemaking on the Hill

With the project scope finalised, WeThePeopleSA is undertaking a Placemaking project at the Constitution Hill World Heritage Site to enhance legibility, integration, and accessibility on Constitution Hill. CHDC will deliver a comprehensive turnkey Placemaking project that includes, but is not limited to, overall project management, concept development, design, costing, fabrication, installation, and project closure reporting, utilising all necessary experts and suppliers to complete the works to the quality and satisfaction of WeThePeopleSA.



INTERVENTION 1: ARRIVAL POINTS

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Sam Hancock Street signalling Transwerke and We The People Park | 2. Hospital Street signalling We The People Park and Constitutional Court |
| 3. Queens Street signalling the Constitutional Square | 4. Kotze Street signalling the forte and VC |
| 5. Joubert Street signalling Women's Jail and VC | 6. Joubert Street signalling VC and Underground Parking |



INTERVENTION 2: ROUTE MARKERS

IN LINE WITH THE SIGNAGE/ARTWORK
OF THE ARRIVAL POINTS

INCLUDE: OVERALL, CREATIVE PLACEMAKING
INTERVENTIONS, WAY FINDING, INTERPRETIVE AND
PROMOTIONAL REFURBISHMENT

The Kresge Foundation funds the following three interventions:

- Signage for six key arrival points.** Projected completion date: End of 2025
- Route markers.** Projected completion date: End of 2025
- Western and Eastern façades of the Visitor's Centre.** Project completion date: End of 2026

2.3. Flame of Democracy

We continue to maintain the Flame of Democracy, located at Constitutional Square, with the support of our donor, Afrox.

2.4. Open Society Foundation Tour

On 10 April 2025, WeThePeopleSA hosted the Open Society Foundation (OSF) as part of their global tour exchange on democracy, transparency, and civic participation in South Africa. The visit showcased some of our initiatives, including our Saturday constitutional literacy workshops and efforts to empower youth with constitutional values.

During the engagement, we explored the intersection between archival storytelling, youth education, and activism. OSF delegates were introduced to the concept of Constitution Hill as a “living classroom,” where civic engagement is both taught and experienced. We presented our approach to grassroots civic empowerment, emphasising dignity, participation, and critical consciousness as foundational values for a democratic culture. Drawing lessons from Ma Winnie Mandela and other prisoners who were imprisoned on the Hill.

2.5. Hlanganisa South Africa – Transnational Dialogue

WeThePeopleSA participated in the *Transnational Dialogue*, hosted by Hlanganisa Institute on 26 April 2025. The dialogue brought together organisations from South Africa, Brazil and the United States of America. It offered a powerful opportunity to examine threats to civic space and the role of constitutional systems in holding governments accountable.

Representing WeThePeopleSA, our intervention reflected on South Africa’s unique experiment in participatory constitution-making and how its legacy remains a vital yet underutilised tool in confronting democratic backsliding. We shared lessons from our civic education programmes, including youth-led dialogues, community popular education, and stories from the experiences of Prisoners on the Hill, emphasising the need to ground civic literacy in lived experience, not just institutional procedure. The event concluded with shared commitments to deepen cross-border solidarity among civic educators.

3. ARCHIVE: THE MAKING OF THE CONSTITUTION

3.1. Archive strongroom: Leak Protection

April's heavy rain caused yet another leak in the strongroom. Purchased wrap sheets effectively prevented damage to the collection (Figs 1 & 2). Ongoing roof repairs, expected to be completed by the end of May, have resulted in dust and debris, necessitating extensive cleaning. Given the recurring leak, a disaster management plan is essential. A comprehensive plan is currently under development, with a target completion by the end of July 2025.



Figures 1 & 2: Sheets in use to prevent damage to the collections.

3.2. Additions to the archive repository and digital capture

The ongoing 490 Oral History Project has deposited new materials, some of which are on temporary loan for digitisation. The lack of high-standard in-house digitisation equipment poses a challenge. Low-tech digitisation methods are being explored, utilising the British Library Endangered Archives Programme and the IFRAO (International Federation of Rock Art Organisations) photographic colour scale.

3.3. Moving the Digital Archive

An operational error in April on AWS servers necessitated an unfortunate IT repair. Instead of repairing, the online archive is being moved to a local server for reduced costs and more affordable support from the Archive and Heritage Group. The site is temporarily down; completion is anticipated by the end of May, operational by early June.

4. COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

4.1. Radio/TV appearances

Radio and television appearances have proven to be effective channels for expanding our national reach and amplifying our message. Moreover, our targeted social media campaigns have significantly increased our visibility as leading voices in constitutional education, resulting in a growing number of requests for media interviews and opportunities for public engagement. Please find attached our social media report, which will be presented at the board meeting on 5 June 2026.

4.1.1. Soweto TV

Due to the popularity and success of our 'Untold Stories: The History They Never Taught Us' campaign focused on the 490, WeThePeopleSA was invited to appear on Soweto TV's *#AfternoonHangout* programme. The interview provided a valuable platform to share the story behind the 490 and highlight how social media can be effectively leveraged to engage young people in learning about the Constitution and South Africa's democratic history.

4.1.2. SABC News

On 26 April, WeThePeopleSA SA was featured in a special SABC Freedom Day production, drawing national attention to the organisation's efforts in promoting constitutional education and civic participation. Trustees can watch the coverage [here](#).

4.1.3. Salaamedia – Civic Spotlight Interview

On 28 March, our Head of Education was a guest presenter on Salaamedia. The conversation covered different topics, including speaking to Rashid Seedat about Ahmed Kathrada and his contribution to building a constitutional democracy.

4.1.4. eNCA – The Dan Corder Show

In April, the Head of Education featured on *The Dan Corder Show* on eNCA, emphasising the role of constitutional literacy in empowering South Africans. The discussion underscored the necessity of civic education in fostering an active citizenry and specifically focused on the newly launched Elements season 2 constitutional literacy curriculum. Trustees can watch the segment by clicking [here](#).

4.1.5. YFM – The Home Run with Ayanda MVP

On 14 May, the Head of Education joined Ayanda MVP on YFM's *The Home Run* to discuss the significance of public participation in the constitutional review process. The conversation underscored WeThePeopleSA's efforts to promote youth engagement in democratic processes. Trustees can watch the segment by clicking [here](#).

4.1.6. Colour-Full Podcast

In May 2025, the Head of Education was featured on *Colour-Full Podcast*, where he explored the intersections of race, identity, and constitutional rights in South Africa. The episode delved into how personal narratives can inform broader conversations about equality and justice. It will be featured in June for Youth Month.

4.1.7. INX Prime – Prime Live

On 15 May 2025, the Head of Education appeared on *Prime Live* on INX Prime to discuss WeThePeopleSA's initiatives to foster community engagement and constitutional awareness. The segment highlighted the importance of participating in parliamentary processes to submit constitutional reviews. Trustees can watch the segment by clicking [here](#).