



**Est. 2008**

*Join the journey and be inspired*

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The Delft Big Band is registered as a Non Profit Organisation (Registered # 2012/011982/08). Registered address: Quay 7, East Pier, V&A Waterfront, Cape Town, 8001



# Delft, Cape Town

Delft is a poverty stricken community just 30km north east of Cape Town. Back in 1989, it was established to be one of the first mixed race townships to include “coloured” and “black” residents with current residents being 75% and 25% respectively. It is commonly known for its high crime rate, its substandard living conditions, substandard schools and lack of employment. Violence, teenage pregnancies, HIV and AIDS, TB, lack of nutrition and substance abuse are some of the daily challenges that this community has to face.

## **Blikkiesdorp (Afrikaans for “Tin Can Town”) – one of seven districts in Delft**

- A relocation camp made-up of corrugated iron shacks
  - 18m<sup>2</sup> structures home to families of 6
  - Ablution, sanitation, and water facilities shared between 4 households





### Our Vision

To create an environment which promotes discipline, responsibility, success, hard work and ultimately provide members with a choice in life. Through excellence in jazz and contemporary music, The Delft Big Band strives to foster these life lessons amongst this vulnerable youth and instil passion for the arts

### Our Objectives

1. To create a sustainable Music School of Excellence for vulnerable youth
2. To provide the opportunity for upliftment through culture, music and life skills
3. Recognising our roots, to provide a safe place to foster development in vulnerable youth
4. To create professional bands which are revenue-generating.

To many, The Delft Big Band is a professional-level Jazz and Contemporary band made up of the vulnerable youth of Delft. To the 100+ members, The Delft Big Band programme is an institution which provides a safe environment which equips individuals with valuable life skills to allow them the opportunity to achieve a future that they deserve. Established in August 2008 as an initiative by the Department of Social Development and NGO Cape Adventure Services and Training, the Delft Big Band (DBB) under the directorship of Ian Smith (founder of the renowned Cape Town Jazz band, VJR and passionate about making a real change in the lives of these individuals), has achieved remarkable results to date:

- It has been in existence for 4 years and as challenging as it has been, has generated and sustained R350 000+ per annum in operational expenses
- During these years has contributed approximately R750 000 back into the community through performance fees and payment towards other services required by DBB (eg. transport), supplied by members of the community
- Provided much needed household incomes to 100+ families
- Assisted in developing entrepreneurial skills amongst the members
- Formed a foundation which drives qualification for further training and education. This has resulted in 2 of our members being enrolled at SACM UCT (South African College of Music at the University of Cape Town) to further pursue their passion
- Participation has given the members the opportunity to secure scholarships, bursaries and permanent employment as professional musicians
- Performed at many high profile events including the Cape Town International Jazz Festival in 2010

### In our own words...

*"We, the members of the Delft Big Band, acknowledging the hard work which is involved, see belonging to The Delft Big Band as an opportunity to **lift ourselves out of the cycle of poverty, drugs and gangsterism.** The Band has become a home from home for us, a place where we are learning life skills while we learn to make music."*

*"The Delft Big Band is opening doors for us and allowing us to explore life outside the area we live in. We believe that **music is a universal language**, which is helping to build bridges with other people. We would like to take our music to other communities, in our own country and around the world."*

*"Through our involvement with the band, we have the opportunity to earn a living and help to provide food for our families, giving us **dignity.** Music expands our imagination, **teaches us discipline** and inspires us to reach new levels in our careers and in our lives. We believe that we can be role models for other youth in situations similar to ours."*

*"Our **vision** is to have our own centre which will be a safe place for us to gather. We envision more teachers for the centre, who will help us to develop our practical and theoretical skills with individual attention and make it possible for us to **study further in music or the related field, e.g. sound engineering.**"*

*"We aim to **support and encourage** each other to persevere and to have the discipline to stay with the band in order to grow it into a project that will leave a **legacy** for those who come after us."*

*"We aim to be the best we can be."*



# How can you join this journey?



## Bookings

The Delft Big Band is available in many configurations to suit every event performance requirement ranging from a quartet to a full 22 piece band. Please note that 20% of booking fees are invested back into the project with the remaining going towards paying the musicians, which then becomes an income to Delft households



## Donations

Donations (in the form of cash, instruments, marketing assistance, time, transport) are welcomed to satisfy the urgent need to provide and replace instruments, music material and operations assistance



## Sponsorship

Support by an individual or organisation will assist in further sustaining and exposing this concept while continuing to make significant changes within the Delft Community



## Mentorship

Defined as "a one-on-one, mutual committed relationship between two individuals designed to promote personal and professional development" thereby providing these people with the tools for a brighter future. We request individuals to share their skills with members of The Delft Big Band

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