



Museums Association of Namibia
Making Museums Matter - Since 1990

REPORT ON THE WORKSHOP ON SUSTAINABLE FASHION WORKSHOP: ECO-
FRIENDLY FASHION DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES REPORT (WINDHOEK, NAMIBIA)

COMPILED BY

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Sponsored by:

M ICDAD

ICOM
international committee
for museums and collections
of decorative art and design

INTRODUCTION

BACKGROUND: SUSTAINABLE AND ZERO WASTE PRACTICES IN NAMIBIA

Namibians have been practicing zero-waste manufacturing methods using different approaches since time immemorial. Zero-waste practice is a part of our culture.

We believe that *“waste is not waste until you waste it”*.

Some good examples on zero waste are;

- Rust from old metals are used as paint
- Ostrich eggshells are used to make beads
- Scraps of leftover fabric are used to produce beautiful traditional garments and accessories
- Dried grass and leaves are used to make stunning baskets and
- Animals slaughtered for food skins are used to make pelts.

The Museum of Namibian Fashion and the Museums Association of Namibia partnered with local fashion designers who are part of the Museum of Namibian Fashion Working Group to contract them as facilitators to equip the upcoming fashion designers with the knowledge and skills for decreasing the carbon footprint in Namibia.

PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP

The purpose of the workshop was to:

- To create sustainable fashion products by 'upcycling' textiles or using found items/materials to practise zero waste approaches
- To introduce designers to sustainable fashion materials
- To train designers on the use of different techniques on reducing waste in the production processes.
- To teach designers the marketing strategies of sustainable products.
- Opportunity to decrease carbon footprint within the Namibian fashion industry.
- Opportunity to enhance and build capacity among the Namibian fashion industry.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR PARTICIPANTS

- To broaden their knowledge on sustainable fashion (globally and nationally) circular economy and related concepts.
- To introduce them to basic vocabulary and tools to discuss sustainable business models' ideas and concepts in the context of fashion.
- To teach them different techniques on producing fashionable products using different approaches in “zero-waste”

The workshop was curated in a manner that provided an exciting and full programme for the participants dated from 21st - 22nd of September 2021, with something for everyone, including novice stitchers and clothes swappers!

Participants were encouraged to engage and get inspired to make positive changes in their fashion habits.

TARGET AUDIENCE AND ATTENDANCE

The workshop was ideal for anyone in Namibia with an interest in fashion.

The workshop commenced on Tuesday, 21 September 2021 with all participants being expected to log on to the zoom platform at 8:30am daily. The sessions were attended by 15 participants, 2 facilitators from FC Textiles and 2 facilitators from the Museums Association of Namibia.

Although the workshop initially planned to host 20 participants, the final number of participants were 15, due to other events happening during heritage week.

MATERIAL LIST

Each participant received a designer package, which included:

- Fabric
- Basic pattern blocks
- Basic tools needed for the designs (provided by MAN).

Each participant received fabric (1 meter) to incorporate in preferred design. The facilitators made provision of a basic dress block to participants.

SUSTAINABILITY WITHIN FASHION SUPPLY CHAIN

- Participants create their designs - either based on a theme or as an open project
- Participants each design and develop a fashion garment using a zero waste approach by using supplied or found materials/objects.

WORKSHOP SUMMARY

DAY 1

The workshop started off with brief introductions, expectations, outcomes, and a breakdown of some zoom rules for the workshop to transition in an orderly manner because it will be taking place online. The facilitators made use of PowerPoint presentations, containing visuals to use as references. These PowerPoint presentations were made available to participants once the workshop concluded.

8:30 : Introductions and workshop outline

- Introducing the Facilitators, participants
- Outlining Outcomes and Expectations
- Zoom Rules and Etiquette

Discussions around the topics commenced soon after.

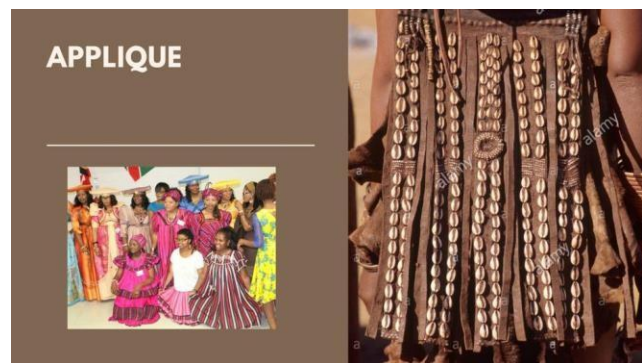
9:00 : Sustainable Culture

Sustainable practices in Namibia (cultural impact)

The facilitators focused on some of Namibia's long practices which were later adopted and integrated into the cultural dress mainly for the Nama and Damara people but later referenced by Oshihherero people in contemporary dress styles.



Highlighting that patchwork dates back to the Hunting and Gathering era. Patchwork traditions are vividly seen in the everyday lives of many Namibian tribes. We also made reference to the other techniques like applique, natural dyeing, weaving etc.



SUSTAINABLE FASHION INTRODUCTION

The impact of fashion on the environment: Pollution, Ocean pollution, Chemical pollution, Textiles, incineration, Landfill waste , Carbon footprint, Climate and Local resources.

FASHION IMPACT ON HUMAN RIGHTS: FASHION BEHIND THE SCENES

- Why this is a problem?
- Women sweatshops
- Children sweatshops
- Modern day slavery
- Ramatex, Rana Plaza and Primark

A very informative discussion was had around the impact of fashion on the environment as well as on human rights. Fashion production makes up 10% of humanity's carbon emissions, dries up water sources, and pollutes rivers and streams. Around 80% of garment workers are women, while western and European fashion brands outsource their production to Asian countries where women suffer the on-going rights violations in the fashion industry more than men. Moreover, women are targeted to take on poorly paid work and become more vulnerable to exploitation and abuse due to pre-existing gender inequality. The facilitators made reference to similar situations which happened at Ramatex, a garment manufacturer that was based in Windhoek.

CIRCULAR FASHION : INTRO, CIRCULAR ECONOMY

How can we support fashion ethically?

A brief presentation based on circular fashion economy was done. Highlighting the importance of supporting local, increasing product life, and reducing one's carbon footprint and buying from ethical brands.

Participants engaged into the discussions as a result the facilitators went over the time allocated to the topic, the breakout rooms discussions were moved to 12:00.

10:00 : Break (Log off)

Addressed questions in chat box before taking a break. During the break, the facilitators stayed online, with a few other participants for if they wanted to further discuss some of the topics

11:00 : Sustainable Fashion In Namibia

Fashion designers/ seamstresses / tailors

Jewelry and accessory designers - Penduka, July by Disney

Models, Photographers, MUA

Thrifting and second hand stores - The Red Shelf , Cinderella goes to Prom and Swap Shop.

The workshop briefly discussed designers in Namibia using sustainable practices in their craft as an effort to inspire participants and broaden their thinking on the topic but the facilitators got to in detail in the next day's session.

11:30 : Design development (brief)

Design brief was given to participants . Each participant has to design a fashion garment showing reference to Namibia's rich cultural heritage, while making use of sustainable approaches practises in various local tribes.



With guidance from facilitators, participants were expected to undergo the stages of design development: Inspiration, sketches, materials use/ selection, technique and final design. Participants sent their final designs electronically via email and other social platforms used to communicate and share information.

A good number of participants wanted to explore with patchwork in their designs while others opted for the zero waste concept and a few wished to use natural dyeing as the facilitators discussed each participant's design concept. The facilitators offered guidance to each person and guided them through the inspiration and the theme of heritage week.

12:00 : Breakaway room discussions

The five questions for participants that they discussed in the rooms and gave feedback on.

1. How can we practice sustainability in everyday life?
2. As a young industry still yet to bloom. What measurement should be put in place to ensure Namibia grows its industry ethically?
3. How does a Namibian fashion designer change present day consumer behavior?
4. How can we develop local resources which play key roles in the supply chain in order for us to own our means of production?
5. Should we still advocate for second hand? (fashion)

There were 15 participants only, so the facilitators divided them into two groups. The breakout rooms resulted in an exciting activity with all the participants interacting with one another, having one on one discussions and opinions based on the 5 questions they received. Feedback per group was discussed, each person got a chance to speak.

End of Day 1

The workshop ended by 14:00. The facilitators gave extra efforts to avail their time to participants who further wanted to discuss their ideas one-on-one, or who wanted clarification on certain topics. On the first day the facilitators staged engaging sessions to explore topics around Sustainable Fashion in the industry and resources for supporting positive changes in our fashion habits.

DAY 2:

Feedback

On the second day a few of the participants were not able to join within the first hour of the workshop, due to various reasons, such being that some of them were students and had to attend lectures . The first session started off with daily sustainable practices, as emphasized in the workshop; sustainability has to start in the home setting to make it easier to translate it into one's way of designing. A few of the participants realized that some of them are already living a very sustainable lifestyle, and have just never thought of it. Within the breakout rooms a lot of ideas were shared based on ideas and tips of living and using what the facilitators already have more consciously. Participants were also active in the chat box, sharing ideas and links to references. The facilitators noticed more engagement participants felt confident to not only contribute to discussion topics but to their design process as well.

A few participants also lost connection to the session, but all the sessions were recorded and the recordings will be sent to all. (Unfortunately the recordings were lost too) but facilitators made sure to bring everyone up to speed on anything that may have been missed by participants

The presentation on sustainable fashion In Namibia session continued into the second day's discussion.

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN THE EVERYDAY LIVING

Session 1 for Day 2 commenced soon after, highlighting topics around Sustainable Fashion in our everyday lives and highlights of resources for supporting positive changes in our living habits.

BREAKAWAY ROOM DISCUSSION: HOW CAN WE PRACTISE SUSTAINABILITY IN OUR EVERYDAY PRACTISE?

Five questions participants discussed in their designated groups and gave feedback on:

1. How would you describe your interest in sustainability?
2. How often do you recycle containers or packaging?
3. What do you reuse or recycle in the home setting?
4. How can you reduce your carbon footprint?
5. Should we still advocate for second hand? (everyday living items)

25 minute breakaway discussion per group

Feedback per group

Feedback from facilitators

8:55 : Upcycling

Facilitated by Fallone Tambwe

Repurpose Session: The Denim Project

Each host used visuals to emphasize on each topic varying from past personal works and web based research.



As the facilitators spoke about up cycling the facilitators looked at the use of unconventional materials or found objects which one can include/ incorporate into their designs either as the main material or as an accent/ accessory.

The denim project was an essential topic, as denim is one of the most unsustainably produced fabrics, but also has the most versatile use and longevity. Denim is widely used to recycle or up-cycle into new products compared to any other fabric. The facilitators also showed visuals on their own product development and design approaches.

The second session was based on natural dyeing, a commonly done practise. Natural dyeing is used in various cultural groups, where it serves different purposes.

9:25 : Zero Waste

Facilitated by Chanté Bock

Repurpose Session: Natural dye

10:00 (Address questions in chat box)

Break: logging off

11:00 : Design development

This was a build up on the first day's presentation on design approaches and ideas the participants sent through the previous day. The participants who didn't send through their ideas the previous day, were given a chance to share their ideas they intended to explore.

Participants were encouraged to explore with found materials, and traditional techniques from different cultural groups, etc patchwork and weaving. Participants started off working on their designs with assistance and guidance from facilitators.

There were lengthy discussions around the design development of each person's ideas. That concluded the workshop and participants and host agreed on dates for final garments (tangible) 29-10-2021, as host this is the most exciting part being able to help other creatives in unpacking ideas and arrival at a final garment one can take pride in.

OUTCOMES, OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

OBSERVATIONS FROM THE FACILITATORS AND THE PARTICIPANTS

- The Museums Association of Namibia prepared very well for this workshop, from making provision for internet connection for all participants, to equipping them with the necessary tools and materials needed for the workshop.
- The participants were easy to communicate with and to work with.
- Most participants were very engaging very well and all seemed excited to create their designs. It was refreshing to see that there were a range of participants involved; a fair representation of gender, race, age and social groups.

OUTCOMES FROM THE FACILITATORS AND THE PARTICIPANTS

- Participants indicated that they now have a good understanding and practice of sustainability in fashion and everyday practices.
- Participants indicated that they now have a real feeling of accomplishment or having mastered a topic or technique and created interesting products of value and meaning
- Participants will now have a 'critical eye' of consumer products as they know what they are able to create themselves, often without buying something new.
- Participants now have an understanding of developing products for a creative business and its possibilities.
- Participants indicated that they will consider recycling and up-cycling more of what they own for more sustainable living.
- Creating original visual art is always good for the soul/cognitive development and everyone will have FUN.

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FACILITATORS

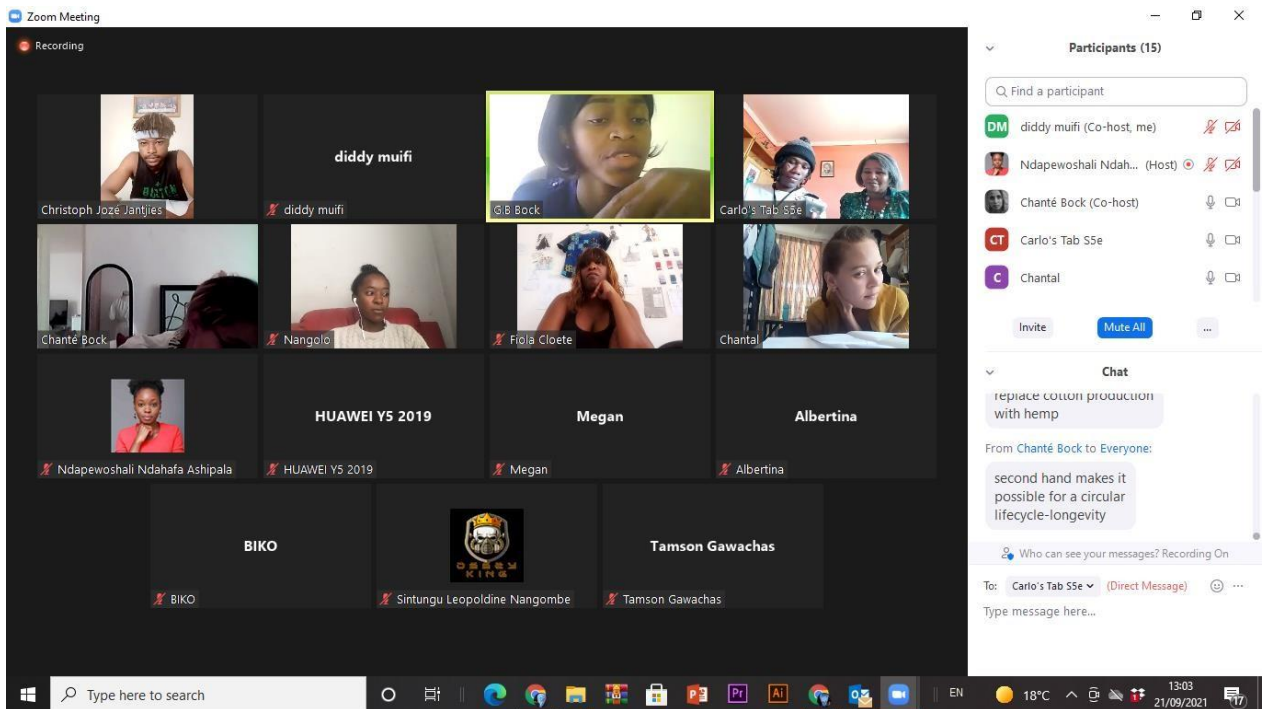
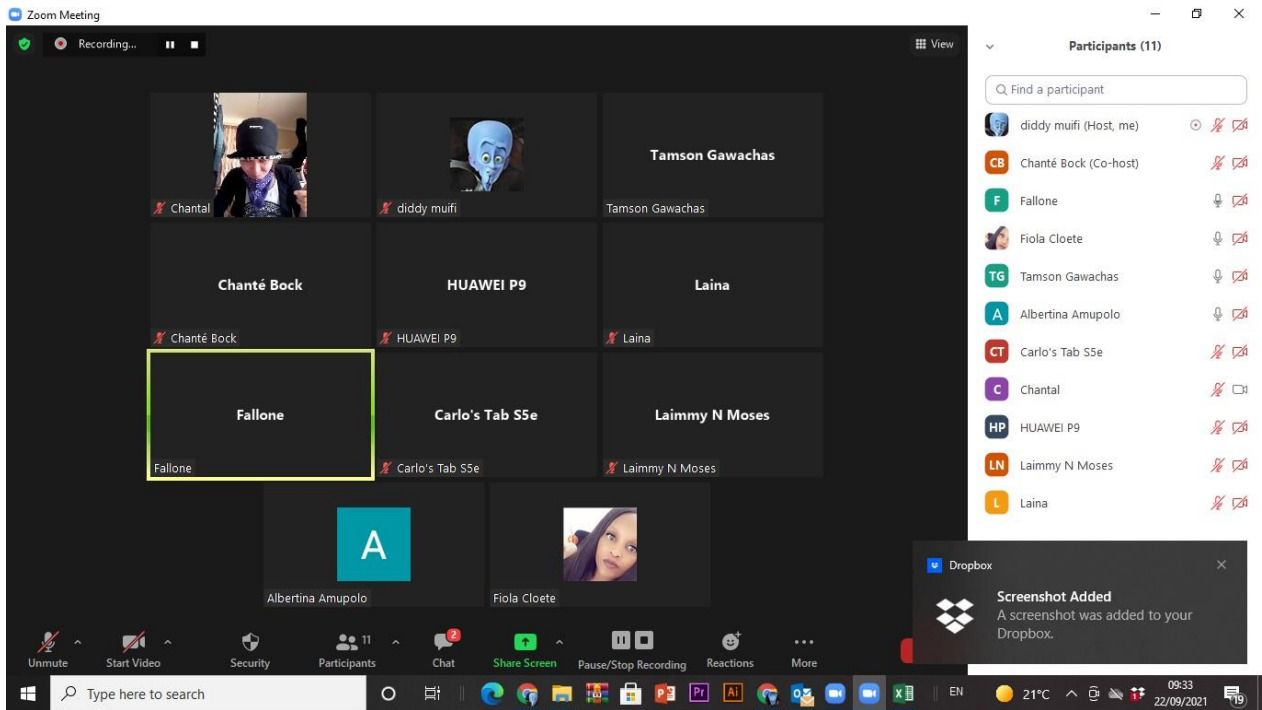
- The facilitators recommend for workshops to be announced well in advance through the Fashion Council and National Art Association , as it will reach more participants and could benefit individuals across the creative scene.
- The Museums Association of Namibia could perhaps integrate more skilled-based workshops in and around topics in Fashion and Arts, focusing on skills and skill-based workshops like textiles design and traditional techniques. This will help reach a common goal, in developing a representation of Namibian developed textiles, with the goal to find an identity within not fashion but also textiles.
- Regular workshops can enable participants to connect and to be self-reliant ; able to cope with the fast pace of social, economic and even political change.

Due to the restrictions, the facilitators couldn't do a face-to-face session, which might have been a much more engaging and feasible workshop. The facilitators recommend more face-to-face sessions. Collaborating with other Art institutions could develop into much greater opportunities; curriculums could include similar themes within the Art institutions. i.e students could collaborate with the Museums Association of Namibia on their thesis research projects on developing sustainable practices around Namibian cultural heritage.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Workshop expenses	Initial Budget	Expenditure
Facilitators cost	N\$ 5,000.00	N\$ 5,000.00
Material cost (fabric, thread and recommended material)	N\$ 5,367.80	N\$ 1,998.00
Stationary	N\$ 1,468.40	N\$ 1,276.87
Data (Aweh data bundle for 20 participants)	N\$ 1,400.00	N\$ 780.00
Courier	N\$ 2,000.00	N\$ 195.00
Total	N\$ 15,236.20	N\$ 9,249.87

ZOOM PHOTO GALLERY



Zoom Meeting

Recording

Participants (17)

Find a participant

DM diddy muifi (Co-host, me)

Ndapewoshali Ndah... (Host)

Chanté Bock (Co-host)

G.B Bock

Albertina

Invite Mute All

Chat

Brothers we stand is also ANother example

From Chantal to Everyone:

gracias

Dropbox

Screenshot Added

A screenshot was added to your Dropbox.

Unmute Start Video Security Participants Chat Share Screen Record Breakout Rooms Reactions

Type here to search

EN 18°C 11:34 21/09/2021

Grid of participants:

- diddy muifi
- Christoph Jozé Jantjies
- Chanté Bock
- Carlo's Tab S5e
- Chantal
- Nangolo
- Ndapewoshali Ndahafa As...
- Hisense U40 Lite
- HUAWEI Y5 2019
- Megan
- BIKO
- Mbangula Laimi...
- Sintungu Leopoldine Nang...
- Albertina
- Tamson Gawachas
- HUAWEI P9

Zoom Meeting

Recording

Participants (18)

Find a participant

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