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## CITY OF CAPE TOWN

29 JUNE 2021

### MEDIA RELEASE

## City calls on District Six community to participate in Public Realm Study

***The City of Cape Town has appointed consultants to conduct a Water Study and Public Realm Study within District Six. Both studies will assist the City in re-establishing the once vibrant community of District Six, and realising the spatial vision that is currently being finalised in collaboration with the District Six community and other residents and stakeholders. Read more below:***

The purpose of the Water Study is to establish where existing underground and surface water resources are located, and how the water can be used in a sustainable manner in re-establishing the community of District Six going forward. The study will be concluded by mid-2022, if all goes as planned.

The Public Realm Study is an in-depth analysis of all the public spaces and places in and related to District Six. District Six community representatives and the consultants will be collaborating in shaping the design guidelines of the public spaces and street fronts, and will identify the first projects to be prioritised for implementation within District Six. This process will also be concluded by mid next year, if all goes as planned.

'The City is, through the consultants, facilitating a process for collaboration about the public realm. The public realm is more than a park, it is also the spaces between buildings such as streets, squares, green spaces, and pedestrian areas that are freely accessible to people. The Public Realm Study will go into the finer detail of how we foresee the activities happening in and around the spaces where the community gets together and interact. The public realm will play a pivotal role in re-establishing this once vibrant neighbourhood, and contribute to creating a sense of belonging and remembrance, opportunity and prosperity,' said the City's Mayoral Committee Member for Spatial Planning and Environment, Alderman Marian Nieuwoudt.

The consultancy team working on the public realm consists of experts in urban design, architecture, heritage, landscaping, and town planning. The first part of the team's work is to undertake research and conduct an analysis of the public open spaces that existed before the community was uprooted, and the existing public open spaces and alignment with what is proposed through the National Government's housing plans.

Community representation will be sought in coming weeks. These representatives or 'caretakers' will be announced and invited to four focused workshops where they, together with the consultants, will collaborate on behalf of the community in the process. The workshops will be recorded and shared with the wider community to get their input as well. This will eventually feed into design guidelines – the look and feel – of the public open spaces in District Six.

'The community of District Six has an inherent knowledge and experience of the public open spaces, and we want to draw on this wisdom as we are planning the future District Six. The community representatives will be expected to attend these workshops, and will represent the different interest groups and report back to their constituencies on the process. Thus, they will nurture this process on behalf of the broader District Six community and other stakeholders,' said Alderman Nieuwoudt.

Once the workshops have been concluded, the design principles will be presented to the community at an open house meeting for further input and comments.

'A public realm investment framework forms part of the study, meaning, the projects for immediate implementation will be prioritised and budgeted for in collaboration with the District Six community. This is a very exciting time and I urge all to please participate in this process. We are trying to make this process as inclusive as possible. Ideally, we would have wanted to host the workshops with many more people, but unfortunately Covid-19 is limiting the possibilities and the numbers who can participate in person. The health and safety of all is taking credence, and as such we have to work within these limitations,' said Alderman Nieuwoudt.

All of those registered as interested and affected parties will soon receive an email, requesting them to nominate a representative to participate in the workshops that will take place in person, depending on Covid-19 health and safety regulations.

The City will, in coming days, announce how the community and interested parties can get involved in the process, and where to access the relevant documents and recording of the virtual meeting that took place earlier today.

In the meantime, questions can be sent to the following email address: [D6.publicrealmstrategy@capetown.gov.za](mailto:D6.publicrealmstrategy@capetown.gov.za).

Last year the City, together with residents and interested parties, embarked on a journey to refine the overall spatial vision or Local Spatial Development Framework (LSDF) for District Six. The Water Study and Public Realm Study will also inform the draft LSDF which will be available for public participation and comment within the next few months. The LSDF and related Public Realm Study are aspects that the City can advance and implement. They are separate from, but will enhance the housing project of the National Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development that is currently underway as part of the restitution process.

**End**

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