

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

International Wikipedia photographic competition celebrates South Africa's heritage

Cape Town, 24th August 2012 – A month-long international photographic competition, Wiki Loves Monuments, will kick off in South Africa from the 1st September and will run throughout Heritage Month with special events planned for Heritage Day, the 24th September.

Members of the public are encouraged to celebrate South Africa's living heritage by taking photographs of heritage sites (including buildings, sites of struggle and memory, graves, monuments, archaeological sites, etc.) and uploading them either via mobile or their computers to the competition website (www.wikilovesmonuments.co.za). A panel of South Africa's most celebrated photographers will judge the uploaded photographs, and the winners will receive significant prizes. In addition, the best photograph from the national competition will be put forward for the international Wiki Loves Monuments prize.

To be eligible for entry, competitors must register on Wikimedia Commons via the www.wikilovesmonuments.co.za website, link the photo to its SAHRA number (or nominate a new site), and release the photographs under the CC-BY-SA licence for usage on Wikipedia and its aligned sites.

The international Wiki Loves Monuments project is organised by the Wikimedia community that created Wikipedia, the free online encyclopaedia, and built the free media archive Wikimedia Commons. The competition runs from 1st to 30th September 2012 and is being held to capture and contribute images and media of the world's culture and heritage to the Wikimedia projects.

The ambitious goal of the global Wikimedia movement is for every person in the world to freely share the sum of all human knowledge. Since 2001, and through various projects, chapters, and the support of the non-profit Wikimedia Foundation, volunteers around the world have been contributing to the Wikimedia projects to achieve this goal.

The Wiki Loves Monuments competition is one way of doing this. A significant proportion of heritage photographs on the Wikimedia sites were created during the 2010 and 2011 versions of this competition. During the 2011 competition, 165,000 photographs were uploaded from 18 countries across Europe. The 2012 competition has more than 34 countries participating in the project.

Highlights of the South African competition include:

- The launch event on the 1st September 2012 at the Slave Church, 40 Long Street, Cape Town;
- Upload Marathons at selected museums on Heritage Day, the 24th September 2012;

Wiki Loves Monuments : Press Release

- Nominations from the public for new national heritage sites, to be considered by the national heritage agencies;
- A National Treasure Hunt in each province for un-categorised sites;
- Competition closes on the 30th September;
- Winners announced at a prize giving ceremony in Johannesburg in early November; and
- Announcement of the international winners, date to be announced.

Wiki Loves Monuments is being launched in South Africa by Wikimedia South Africa, in partnership with WikiAfrica (wiki africa.org). Current competition collaborators are the South African Heritage Resource Agency, Heritage Western Cape, Art South Africa and the National Heritage Council.

The commencement of the Wiki Loves Monuments South Africa competition on the 1st September 2012 coincides with the official launch of the South African Wikimedia Chapter.

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Useful links:

Websites:

www.wikilovesmonuments.co.za

www.wikilovesmonuments.org

www.en.wikipedia.org

www.commonswikimedia.org

Mobile Android App: Google Play

Facebook: www.facebook.com/WLMZA

Twitter: twitter.com/WLM_ZA

Tel: 021 418 3336

Media release by Africa Centre on behalf of Wikimedia South Africa

For media queries contact:

Isla Haddow-Flood

Cell: 071 491 4101

Tel: 021 418 3336

Email: islahf@africacentre.net

Or Douglas Scott

Cell: 795158727

Email: douglas.i.scott@gmail.com

NOTES FOR THE EDITOR:

The Competition Rules

- The photographs or video have to be taken and uploaded by that person.
- Only entries uploaded during the month of September 2012 are eligible.
- Only entries released under CC-BY-SA licence are eligible to participate. (for details on this licence, please visit www.creativecommonsza.org)
- Each upload has to be linked to the "SAHRA ID number" on the website or mobile app (available from Google Play), unless a heritage site is being nominated.
- Competitors must register at Wikimedia Commons, they can do this from the competition website (www.wikilovesmonuments.co.za).

About the heritage list

Wiki Loves Monuments South Africa uses the official heritage list for Grade I and II, as supplied by the South African Heritage Resource Agency (SAHRA). There are a total of 3,614 national heritage estates in South Africa that have been categorised into three grades. Grade I lists 18 heritage sites with qualities so exceptional that they are of special national significance. Grade II listed sites (currently standing at 3,019 sites) are considered to have special qualities that make them significant within the context of a province or a region.

About Wiki Loves Monuments

Wiki Loves Monuments began as a pilot project in the Netherlands in September 2010. The 2010 contest resulted in over 12,500 photos by more than 250 participants. Owing to this success, the project was rolled out to 18 European countries in 2011. More than 165,000 photographs and videos of European monuments were entered in the 2011 contest. This year, the competition is global with 34 countries participating.

www.wikilovemonuments.org

The competition judges

- Graeme Williams
- Gille de Vlieg
- Gavin Furlonger
- Laurian Brown
- Mia Ziegvoegel
- Gretchen Wilsenach
- Gary Shap

About Wikimedia South Africa

Wikimedia is the non-profit organization that operates Wikipedia and other free-knowledge projects such as Wikimedia Commons, Wiktionary and Wikibooks. It is completely funded through donations and is free from advertising. One of the ways to encourage collaboration and contribution to the projects from people around the world is to encourage Wikipedians to establish country-specific Chapters, which independently promote the goals of Wikipedia projects in their own contexts and languages.

There are currently 39 chapters operating globally. The South African Chapter was approved on 26th March 2011. The Chapter is keen to work on making Wikipedia more accessible and relevant to the South African community. The community will promote local awareness of the projects and their proper academic use, encourage new Wikipedians (the people who edit Wikipedia) and translation efforts into local languages, support the creation of local free knowledge and media, and offer scholarships and support for promising local students.

http://meta.wikimedia.org/wiki/Wikimedia_South_Africa

About WikiAfrica

The WikiAfrica project is a collaboration between the Africa Centre (www.africacentre.net) and Lettera27 (lettera27.org) that redresses the imbalance of factual heritage and cultural knowledge about Africa on Wikipedia by promoting a new approach to knowledge that is fully-inclusive, mainstream and intercultural. Its mission is to assist and support the growth of Wikipedia as a free and open encyclopaedia that provides greater access to Africa's wealth of contemporary and historical realities.

www.wikiafrica.org