



## arts & culture

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Arts and Culture  
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**Higher Education Quality Committee**  
**The Council on Higher Education**  
**&**  
**The Department of Education**

19 May 2015

Dear Sir / Madam,

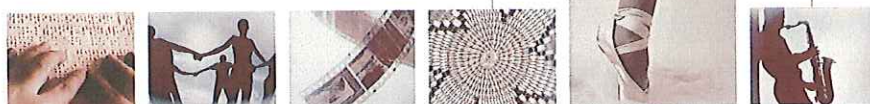
### **Expression of support in regard accreditation application**

The Department of Arts and Culture hereby wishes to express its support of *The South African Institute for Heritage Science and Conservation's* accreditation application, currently before the CHE.

I wish to point out that delegations from the Department of Arts and Culture have on more than one occasion undertaken official visits to this candidate institution's campus facilities in Twee Riviere, Eastern Cape, as an exploratory means of engaging the recognized, critical shortage of formally trained conservators within South Africa's heritage sector. On a number of subsequent occasions, senior representatives of the Institute have also constructively met with representatives of our Department in Pretoria. Through these discussions and exchanges, as well as sustained correspondence maintained over a number of years, a clear consensus has emerged:

The Department considers it highly desirable that this candidate institution should succeed in its application to be accredited as a higher education provider, and also warmly supports the introduction of the postgraduate diploma programme which the *Institute for Heritage Science and Conservation* is proposing.

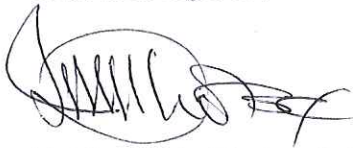
Such is the need for formally trained conservators within the heritage sector, that our Department had at one stage also proposed and motivated the merits of possibly fast-tracking the accreditation of this candidate institution, and had approached SAQA in that regard. Clearly, we are persuaded that the Institute's ground-breaking training programme will represent a crucial step forward for South Africa's heritage sphere.



Needless to say, the evaluation of the candidate, and determination of merit, shall of course rest entirely with the CHE and the Department of Education. This is accepted unreservedly.

However, it pleases the Department of Arts and Culture to endorse the Institute's accreditation application in principle, and to wish them every success in this regard.

With kind regards,



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