

Florence /Khaxas and Yvette Hoebes (Usakos Museum Council)

Florence /Khaxas is a feminist writer and storyteller, women rights defender, she is the Executive Director of the women's rights organisation called the Y-Fem Namibian Trust. She is a cultural activist and founder also of the Damara dresses, a movement of fashion heritage of the Damara people in Namibia. She serves as a member of the Usakos Museum Council.

Yvette Hoebes is a Tourism graduate and a self-taught abstract and mixed media expressionist (Artist). Born and raised in Usakos. She is an activist and member in the Usakos Museum Council.

Usakos Museum and the re-vision of colonial spaces in a small town in Namibia

The purpose of our project is the re-vision of colonial spaces in our small town, Usakos. People who were classified under apartheid as 'Black' or 'Coloured' were forced to move from their 'old locations' to new townships during the early 1960s. Our aim is to speak to the descendants of those whose families are listed in our museum as having been removed. We want to retrieve photos and memorabilia from that generation and speak to their descendants. The material collected will be used in the development of an exhibition for the Usakos Museum, that is currently under development, as well as a memorial on the site of the vacant space where the old location once stood. This memorialisation is intended to displace the memories of destruction and demoralisation with a vision of hope. The research hopes to answer the following questions: Who were the people who lived in the location? What was their livelihood? E.g.: work, food, school, etc.; What was their lifestyle? Arts, music, fashion, culture, tradition, religion etc.; How did they construct their homes?; What were the advantages and disadvantages of forced removal for the people? and Where are they now?



The shells of a few buildings still stand in the 'Old Location.'



An aerial photograph from the 1950s shows the Old Location as an inhabited space before the forced removals.



The foundations of one of the buildings that was removed from the Old Location.