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## 1. PERSONAL PROFILE

Petra Terblanche is a cultural anthropologist who is presently employed as curator at the Muti wa Vatsonga Museum, formerly Tsongakraal Open-air Museum. For the past twenty-five years she has been active in community work and development and doing research on the cultural heritage and history of the indigenous people and their way of life. She organized many cultural festivals and programmes, and by promoting the arts encountered a distinct cultural revival and is also involved in a number of community-based projects.

Petra started her career in 1982 as curator of the Tsongakraal Open-air Museum, Transvaal Provincial Administration. Since 1994 she has been employed by the Provincial Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, initially as cultural officer and then as heritage practitioner in the Heritage and Museum Directorate. She is the curator in the Museum active as museum human scientist where activities center on collecting, preserving and promoting the cultural heritage of all the local communities, eg. Vatsonga, Basotho and Vavenda, also promoting economic growth and development, based on local traditions and indigenous knowledge.

She serves, amongst other, as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Heritage-based Arts, Crafts and Village Tourism Cluster Development Programme, funded by the European Union, and was member of Board of Trustees of the Tzaneen Tourism Organization, and is member of the group that explores 'the Water Spirit Belief Complex', spearheaded by Rhodes University. She also established the Mopani District Heritage and Museum Forum, and initiated the celebration of community indigenous festivals like the African New Year in September (opening of planting and ploughing season) and the Festival of the First Fruit (harvest thank-giving festival) in February. This was the fore-runner of the annual Provincial Marula Festival celebrated in Phalaborwa.

Petra, born in Namibia to German parents, was married to artist and portrait painter Philip Terblanche and has got three daughters. She has recently retired from the Public Sector to spend more time on her passion.

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## 2. WORKING EXPERIENCE AND KEY COMPETENCIES

- Working with rural communities;
  - Identification and promotion of cultural heritage (festivals, workshops, conferences and events);
  - Project management, events organizing, exhibition design;
  - Museum Management;
  - Cultural and Natural Resources Management;
  - Administration and computer literacy;
  - Grassroots Innovations;
  - Identification and implementation of new innovative programs in the local cultural sectors, eg. assisting some local rural groups to establish economic viable enterprises.
  - History and Heritage niche Tourism, eg crafters safaris.
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### 3. EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

DATES	INSTITUTION	POSITION HELD	LOCATION
1-02-1982 to 30-04-1984	Transvaal Provincial Administration	Museum Curator	Tsongakraal Museum, near Letsitele, Northern Transvaal.
1-06-1985 to 30-06-1988	Phalaborwa Municipality	Museum Curator	Phalaborwa
1-07-1988 to 30-06-1992	The Rural Foundation of SA – Stationed at Letsitele GOV (CDA)	Community Development Officer	Letsitele District Farming Community
1-07-1992 to 1994 since 1994	Former Gazankulu Government, Limpopo Provincial Administration	Cultural Officer	Giyani Town for North-eastern District in Northern Province
since 2002 transferred to	Limpopo Provincial Administration, Department of Sport, Arts and Culture	Museum Curator (Principal Museum Human Scientist)	Tsongakraal Open-air Museum (name changed in 2004 to Muti wa Vatsonga Museum)

### 4. RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS AND EDUCATION

Dates Attended	Company / Institution Name	Degree Obtained
1968-1970 and 1981-1982	UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH	BA Anthropology BA-Hon Anthropology
1985-1986	UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA	Post-grad Diploma in Museum Sciences (cum laude)
1994	UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA	MA Anthropology (cum laude)
2002 enrolled at	UNIVERSITY OF GRAHAMSTOWN	PhD in Anthropology – not completed

### 5. ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

1. **Curator** (January 1982 to April 1984) at the Tsongakraal Open-air Museum in the Hans Merensky

Nature Reserve, 70 km east of Tzaneen, Limpopo Province.

Main achievements:

- o The implementation of inter-active museum programmes to promote the character of the living heritage of the Tsonga people of the area. Visitor attendance increased remarkably;
- o Sourcing and acquisition of traditional cultural material (objects, photos and oral traditions);
- o Research of the history and heritage of the Tsonga people of former Gazankulu homeland;

- Guiding students at museum in practical museum work and doing research in ethno-environmental topics
2. **Curator** (July 1985 – June 1988) at Phalaborwa Town Council for the establishment of a mining museum in Phalaborwa
- Main achievements:
- Research of the ancient and modern mining activities and history, and a business plan for the development of a mining museum for the area;
  - Post-graduate Diploma in Museum Sciences in 1986;
  - Assisting Pretoria University Professor Kas Holtzhausen with research on marula trees, and organizing the 'First Phalaborwa Marula Ball'.
3. **Community Developer** for the Letsitele Farmers Community Development Association, 1988 to 1991, and Early Learning Co-coordinator for Province, 1991 to 1992, employed by the Rural Foundation of SA,
- Main achievements:
- Establishment of women's clubs and health care groups;
  - Establishment of 28 crèches (early learning centers) on farms for farm workers children
  - Involvement of farmers wives in the life's of their farm workers and their families
  - Organizing of the annual cultural festival, choir and traditional dance competitions
  - Involvement in the establishment of a number of farm schools.
  - Upgrading of farm workers accommodation and promotion of health and hygiene
4. **Principal Cultural Officer** in Giyani for the Bureau for Tsonga Culture, Department of Education, Gazankulu Government, 1992-1993, and in 1994 to 2002 transferred to Limpopo Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, Giyani:
- Main achievements:
- MA in Anthropology, 1994, UP, with theme of 'The history and material culture of the VaTsonga, concentrating on women's activities and traditions, and the application in museums by promotion of indigenous knowledge and technologies for craft-art development'
  - Organizing cultural festivals and competitions
  - Identification of skilled artists and crafters for the promotion of local indigenous talent;
  - Establishment of Minc`eka Beadwork and Embroidery Collective
  - Acquired funding for 6 groups around Giyani for training, product development, marketing of the enterprises of craft art development

- Awareness creation and promotion of community-based or cultural tourism

5. **Museum Curator (Museum Human Scientist) and Heritage Practitioner** employed by Limpopo Provincial Department of Sport, Arts and Culture, at the Muti wa Vatsonga Open-air Museum and Mopani District.

Main achievements:

- Total restoration of the dilapidated and floods-destroyed open-air museum by involving indigenous knowledge specialists in 2003/4;
  - Relaunch of restored museum on Africa Day celebration in 2004;
  - Celebrating the first Africa Day Celebration in Limpopo Province in 2004;
  - Establishing a new exhibition at the museum;
  - Transformation in the museum from Euro-centric to local indigenous practices, services, activities and traditions eg. through:
  - Initiating innovative new programmes like *ku dzima xikomu* and *ku luma vukanyi* rituals and ceremonies, ie. African New Year Celebration and Thanks-giving Harvest Festival;
  - Creating awareness and popularizing Living Heritage through active participation of communities
    - in celebrations;
  - Retain, preserve, protect and promote the cultural heritage of the region through research and documentation and reviving practices for economic growth and (tourism) development and creating opportunities for rural unemployed women and youth, eg heritage-based arts crafts and village tourism programmes and enterprise development, see Xidzimbanyani Jewelry Project;
  - Organizing a mini-conference with theme "Heritage Guides the Future";
  - Since early 2000 part of a group that explores the 'Water spirit Belief Complex' and meaning and purpose of ritual practices;
  - Have Baleni gendered sacred site declared a Provincial heritage site.
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