



## **Word N Sound Celebrates a Decade of Spoken Word with “Legacy X: Future History” Exhibition**

**7 March – 13 April 2024 | Goethe-Institut Johannesburg | Free Entry**

Johannesburg, South Africa – Word N Sound, the trailblazing spoken word movement that has redefined poetry in South Africa, marks its remarkable ten-year journey with an immersive exhibition, Word N Sound: Legacy X - Future History. Hosted at the Goethe-Institut Johannesburg from 7 March to 13 April 2024, this exhibition is a powerful reflection on the movement’s impact while envisioning the future of African storytelling.

For over a decade, Word N Sound has transformed poetry from a niche art form into a thriving cultural force, providing a platform for emerging voices and fostering a dynamic community of spoken word artists. Legacy X - Future History chronicles this journey, celebrating the milestones, the voices, and the audiences that have shaped Word N Sound into a movement that resonates far beyond the stage.

“Word N Sound began with a single microphone and a shared dream—to create a space where poets could be heard. A decade later, we have built more than just a platform; we have cultivated a legacy. Legacy X - Future History is both a tribute to this journey and a call to the next generation to continue shaping the future of spoken word.” – Qhakaza Mohare, Word N Sound Co-Founder

Through a curated collection of archival material, multimedia installations, and interactive experiences, visitors will walk through the history of Word N Sound, exploring how spoken word has become a space for reflection, resistance, and re-imagination. The exhibition is designed not only to celebrate past achievements but to inspire audiences to engage with the ongoing evolution of poetry and performance in South Africa.

Goethe-Institut Johannesburg, a long-standing supporter of arts and culture, is proud to partner with Word N Sound to bring this exhibition to life.

“The Goethe-Institut is committed to supporting creative expressions that push boundaries and spark dialogue. Word N Sound has played a vital role in shaping contemporary South African literature and performance, and we are honored to host the first exhibition that captures its influence over ten years while looking ahead to the future of storytelling.” – Benjamin Bergner, Goethe-Institut Johannesburg

As part of the exhibition’s programming, audiences can expect live performances, panel discussions, and workshops that further explore the themes of legacy, identity, and the power of words.

Word N Sound: Legacy X - Future History is free to the public and runs from 7 March to 13 April 2024 at Goethe-Institut, 119 Jan Smuts Ave, Parkwood, Johannesburg.

**ENDS ///**

## **Media Contact**

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## **About Word N Sound**

Live Literature Movement Founded in 2010, Word N Sound is South Africa's premier spoken word and poetry platform, dedicated to elevating the art of storytelling and amplifying emerging voices. What began as an intimate poetry gathering in Johannesburg has evolved into a powerful literary movement that nurtures talent, fosters artistic excellence, and provides a launchpad for poets to share their work both locally and globally. Through its dynamic events, workshops, and international collaborations, Word N Sound continues to push the boundaries of contemporary spoken word while honoring Africa's deep-rooted oral traditions.

At the heart of the movement is the Word N Sound Poetry League, a competitive slam series that challenges poets to refine their craft, compete for the coveted championship title, and build sustainable careers in the literary arts. Beyond the slam stage, Word N Sound curates live literature experiences, open mics, and mentorship programs, bridging generations of poets and writers. By creating platforms that celebrate diverse linguistic and cultural expressions, the movement champions African identity and ensures that poetry remains a powerful tool for social commentary, self-expression, and community building.

Word N Sound is more than just an event—it's a cultural force. Over the years, it has partnered with institutions like the Goethe-Institut South Africa and media platforms to expand its reach and impact. By exporting South African poets to international stages and welcoming global voices to local audiences, Word N Sound plays a vital role in shaping the future of African literature. Whether you are a poet, a listener, or a lover of words, the movement invites you to be part of its ever-growing legacy—where stories shape tomorrow.

## **About the Goethe-Institut**

As the cultural institute of the Federal Republic of Germany, we promote cultural exchange, education, and social discourse. We support the teaching and learning of the German language and provide information worldwide about the cultural and social diversity of Germany and Europe.

The Goethe-Institut in Johannesburg oversees operations in the Sub-Saharan countries including 14 institutes, five Goethe centers, and one connecting office. In addition, we are working together with German embassies in countries where the Goethe-Institut is not represented.

Our Cultural Programmes Department focuses on a variety of different artistic approaches from the visual arts to drama, dance, literature, film, and others. Our goal is to support the local cultural scenes and strengthen pan-African dialogue through the arts.

Our Language department offers German lessons in the Goethe-Institut and otherwise. It supports German teachers in the country and works closely with the South African Department of Education.

The Goethe-Institut Johannesburg's Library and Information Department collaborates with libraries and institutions engaged in media literacy, gaming, and robotics in South Africa. Our library offers a wide range of information and media about Germany. Through our eLibrary service, ebooks and other digital media can be borrowed and enjoyed electronically.