

# They sing, swing, <sup>Paint.</sup> —and for free!

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IF YOUR thing is to sing, to play your part in art, to relax with a sax or to show what you know with a camera — then go to the Mowbry police station.

Not quite to the police station itself — just right opposite. There you will find a place with a difference, the Community Arts Project.

This is no ordinary place. It is, in fact, the scene where things are happening in a big way.

Things like jazz, acting, painting and photography. The people who go there are young, enthusiastic and bubbling over with talent.

## Piano

Walk up the concrete stairs any day of the week and you're bound to hear the strains of a not-so-new piano filling the ear.

Don't worry. It's just a black "cat" expressing himself in the way he knows best.

You may even walk into a guy having a "conversation"

with himself. Again, don't worry. He's probably just rehearsing his lines for the next play, something that happens at the centre in a big way.

I had a look around the other day and saw some of the good things being done there.

People — mainly youngsters — look forward to the centre because they are given the opportunity to learn there and are trained by professionals.

The Community Arts Project is a lively place, reflected by the colourful paintings and drawings displayed on the walls.

It is also reflected by the people who go there — happy people, people who like the arts, people dying to express themselves and do their thing.

The group in charge of the project have one big aim.

They want talented people to have the chance of developing their creative abilities.

Everybody is welcome, they say and the membership list is growing.

There is a great need for this type of centre as Livingstone Gocini says. He is heading for the big time as an artist and lino cuts are his scene.

## Teachers

It's something he likes, does well and this young Langa man likes to share his gifts.

He spends about eight hours a day at the centre, working and teaching others. He has about 14 pupils, all keen to make their mark in the art world.

Livingstone wants more youngsters to come to him as he knows there are many more in the townships and does not like the way that

they are wasting their talents.

He believes he is able to make a living out of art and his ambition now is to have a one-man exhibition at the centre soon.

## Artist

Mputumi Bangani is another member of the centre with dreams of becoming a successful artist. His father was one and so was his brother.

Now, it's difficult to get him away from his chisels and lino cuts.

There's also a bright drama student at the centre, Kotso Bada.

He says he can't live without the stage and wants to further his drama studies at university next year. Kotso has written two plays, Engagement Ring, and Death.

He says he believes in dialogue, in communicating

he became an actor.

Kotso says the six other drama students in his group are all dedicated and talented.

This likeable student is one of the many folk, who help to make the Community Arts Project a swinging place.