CAP finds new home in school

Staff Reporter

AFTER a struggle of almost 2½ years, the Community Arts Project (CAP) has finally found premises — in an old school in District Six.

CAP organizer Mr Derek Joubert said the project’s new centre was on loan from St Phillip’s parish.

A wide range of art subjects, including music, dance, drama, sculpture and yoga, are taught at the centre.

The project members range from five to 74 years and a nominal membership fee of R1 a year and R2 a month for classes is charged.

Mr Joubert said the project, designed in 1976, had a double purpose.

“In 1976, there was a great deal of political trouble, and it was felt that people from different race groups had no way of getting to know each other and sharing common ground. A centre such as this could bridge the gap.”

Opportunities

The other reason was to provide opportunities for people who would not otherwise be able to afford tuition in the arts.

Mr Joubert said, “St Phillip’s used to be a school, but when the people in the area were moved, it was forced to close down.”

The building was badly vandalized during the eight months it stood vacant. It had to be rewired and a new plumbing system had to be installed.

The old school has a huge hall and eight classrooms. There are about 1500 registered students and most of the classes run late in the afternoon or at night.

“We recently received a three-year grant of R70,000 from the German Evangelical churches.”

However, Mr Joubert felt CAP should be supported locally and a “Friendship of CAP Society” is being launched. Local businessmen and members of the public will be invited to become paying members.

“We want to extend the craft side — pottery and textiles — and generate an income. We cannot continue to rely on grants.”

Drama

CAP is also preparing to take a drama and dance group to a festival in Botswana. They have prepared a Wole Soyinka play — The Jero Plays — and have written their own play for the festival.

A R10,000 grant from the Anglo American Corporation is being used to purchase a kiln for the proposed pottery classes.

“Now that we have larger premises we can involve the community to a larger extent. We intend holding shows and lessons for housewives and pensioners,” Mr Joubert said.

Cleaning up is fun when you know that after years of looking, you finally have somewhere to act, paint, sculpt or dance. Getting stuck into the grime and dirt are Selina Beukes, 23, and Heather Lawrence, 17.