

# Art centre moves . . .

By Dale Lautenbach  
THE centre of the Community Arts Project has been moved from its previous site in Mowbray to spacious new premises

just outside the city, and after renovations the operation is in full swing.

Their new building was originally the Church of St Philips, built in 1885 and then

transformed into the St Philips School with the addition of classrooms in 1936. The church section of the complex has all the original charm of an old stone building and also provides the

arts centre with a large space for productions and group exercises.

Project organiser and director Derek Joubert explained that the running costs of the centre were being met by a grant from the German Evangelical Church and a smaller grant from Anglo American is used for equipment.

"But we do need more money," he said, "and with our larger facilities we're going to start a craft section with pottery, weaving and textile printing which will generate some income for us. Performances in the hall will also help."

The CAP students are already working on three productions with a translation of a German play about child slavery, a Nigerian play and an improvisation. The first of these is planned for June.

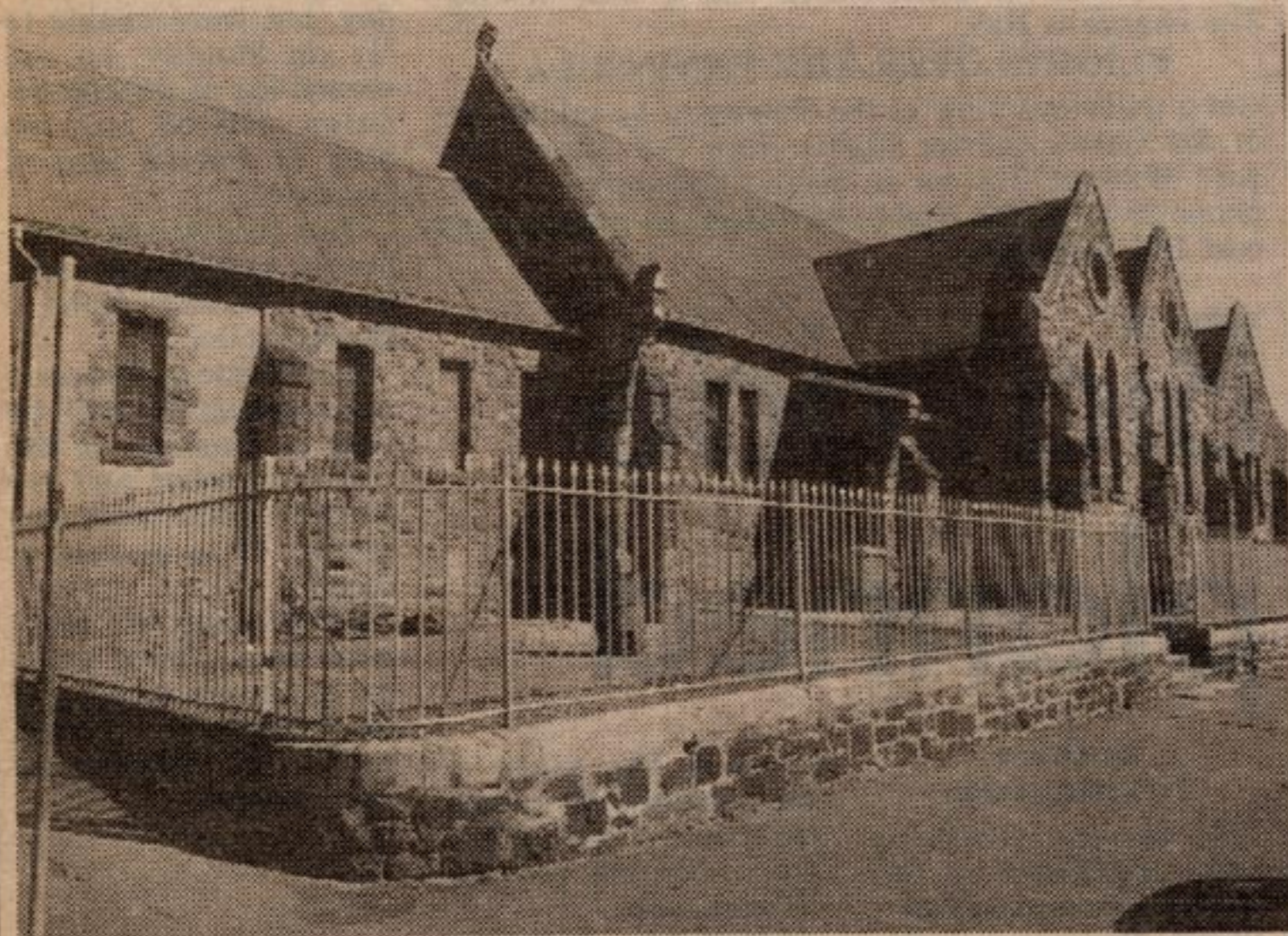
The centre, which is open to students of all ages and races and has about 1 500 members on file, offers courses in painting, graphics, sculpture, music, photography, modern jazz dance, karate, yoga and drama. There is a nominal annual fee of R1 plus additional contributions for specific classes.

Most classes are held during evenings and afternoons but Mr Joubert wants to expand the programme with morning classes for housewives and pensioners. Teaching at the centre is mostly voluntary but there is a full-time resident artist — sculptor Bongani Shange. Cecil Skotnes is a guiding force behind the arts with a twice weekly visit and Mavis Taylor has expressed interest in running drama groups.

"The project has been in operation for five years," said Mr Joubert, "and this is the first time we've had adequate premises. We want it to be a place where people from different race groups can get together and interact like ordinary human beings. We've discovered all sorts of cultural traditions in the St Philips community and we mean to fight to preserve these and become a cultural powerhouse for the community."

To meet their financial needs the centre is also introducing a Friends of the CAP society and anyone interested in voluntary teaching work is also most welcome to apply.

Those interested should contact Derek Joubert at the centre in Chapel Street, Cape Town, between 9 am and 10 pm. Their postal address remains CAP, PO Box 168, Rondebosch 7700.



THE new centre of the Community Arts Project