

Botswana conference looks at our culture

ART AND THE PEOPLE

PEOPLE who have learnt things should teach them to others. Those with studios and rooms where photographs can be developed, should share them with people who want to learn.

Artists suggested this at the art festival held in Botswana over five days last month.

The artists included musicians, writers of poetry and books and people involved in the making of films.

They discussed what part they

could play in the struggle for a better society.

People said the communities were very important. Art must come to the people. Exhibitions need not be in galleries, artists must take them to the people.

Everyone agreed it was important for people to work together and to use newsletters like Grassroots to keep in touch with each other.

A mime group and a drama group from Cape Town were present. James Mathews, a poet and Richard Rive, a writer, both from Cape Town, were also there.

During the evening performances one Capetonian of special note showed how music could get a good message across. Abdullah Ebrahim, who we all know as Dollar Brand, played his District Six piece to the



Dollar Brand at conference.

packed civic hall.

In doing so, he "went back" to Cape Town for the first time in six years.



Bringing the message to the people through drama.