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BRIEF HISTORY OF #BEFREE MOVEMENT

Project #BeFree was born as a result of engaging over 100,000 young people from all fourteen regions in Namibia, the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), the United States of America, Switzerland and the Netherlands, with frank, non-judgmental dialogue and thematic conversations on experiences through #BeFree engagements. Young people have taken ownership of the #BeFree brand and are driving the values, programming, services and modalities.

The #BeFree Key Learnings Report revealed that there is a pressing need for an integrated, protection system with adequate capacity and resources to prevent harm and respond to the needs of young people in a coordinated manner. We, therefore, intend to play a material role in strengthening services available to adolescents. This will be achieved by developing a robust framework for sustainable interventions to effectively respond to adolescent and young adult needs (13 to 25 years).

The #BeFree Movement recognizes the importance of establishing relevant and effective programmes which cater to the specific needs of adolescents and young adults. We do so remaining cognizant of the significant risks, particularly concerning sexual violence that is disproportionately experienced by adolescent girls and young women.

As a result, Project #BeFree is the institutionalisation of the #BeFree Movement and a vehicle to implement the critical learnings gained during the last four years of #BeFree dialogues. Project #BeFree intends to provide a continuum of holistic services including psychosocial support, legal and criminal justice system guidance, the full spectrum of sexual reproductive health services, skills development, adolescent-friendly entertainment and other critical services. These interventions will be provided through smart partnerships to enhance the accessibility of services.

Project #BeFree intends to close the gaps in service delivery to young people by fostering innovative and engaging platforms that provide targeted, gender-sensitive, and age-appropriate programming. The programmes will be diverse and inclusive and will cater to the specific needs of the youth.

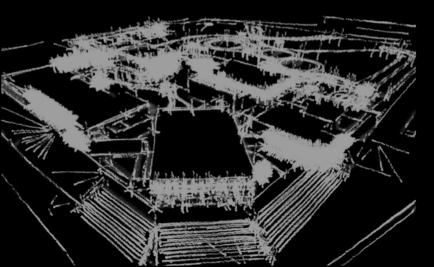
Moreover, we seek to impart constructive, conflict resolution skills to the youth. This will include facilitating and mediating complex relationship dynamics which result in conflict between young people, their peers and caregivers.

An important lesson learnt from #BeFreeMovement is the value of multi-stakeholder partnerships. As a result, we seek to engage and accommodate like-minded service providers. We are mindful of the project cost implications and aim to support the sustainability of Project #Be-Free by developing a realistic financial model.

In essence, Project #BeFree intends to construct a physical manifestation of the key learnings from the #BeFree Movement. Project #BeFree intends to give young people a re-imagined sense of belonging and will become the effective youth empowerment programme we all wish we had when we were young. Project #BeFree aspires to provide a safe space where young people and their parents can access professional services, and seek guidance on complex social issues -which otherwise are often left unaddressed and may escalate into conflict and/or dysfunction.



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The conception of #BeFree Centre emerged from the need to create an urban catalyst, which would embody and institutionalize all the groundbreaking work of #BeFree movement and all its initiatives. #BeFree is to act as a haven and platform for youth across Namibia.

The Centre is comprised out of several interactive spaces namely; The #BreakFree Youth clinic, The Yo! Hub (Innovation , STEM , Robotics, coding) , Training Hall , Admin building (Ad hoc , workshop space) , The Plug (After school/ Mentorship class) and #BeFree Playground (Educational Playground) . These multifunctional and dynamic buildings give rise to a central courtyard of interaction, which conjures up a sense of community with spaces of expression and growth.

This Landmark project will kick off with Phase 1 of Construction with #BreakFree Youth Clinic.At this Adolescent Health Centre we will offer probono psycho-social support and counselling, including pro bono services. This includes the on-site presence of access to an interdenominational youth pastor and a quiet place for prayer and solitude. The project seeks to trailblaze and provide unique health services which cater not only for physical needs but as well as psychological needs. This Groundbreaking project seeks to break the stigma and deal directly to address Adolescent health, Gender-based Violence and promote mental health education.

Architects: Una Stuurmann Architects

Typology: Cultural, Sports, Education

Location: Katutura Multipurpose Centre

Client: One Economy Foundation

Collaborators: Burmeister & Partners , Dawid Nel QS

Size: 4000sq/m

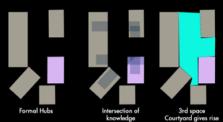
Status: Construction of (Phase 1) starts July 2021





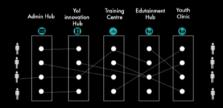






Crosspolinative Spatial Programming

The formation of Hubs creates protection for the centre, whilst still allowing permeability and connection with surroundings.



Crosspolinative Spatial Programming enables

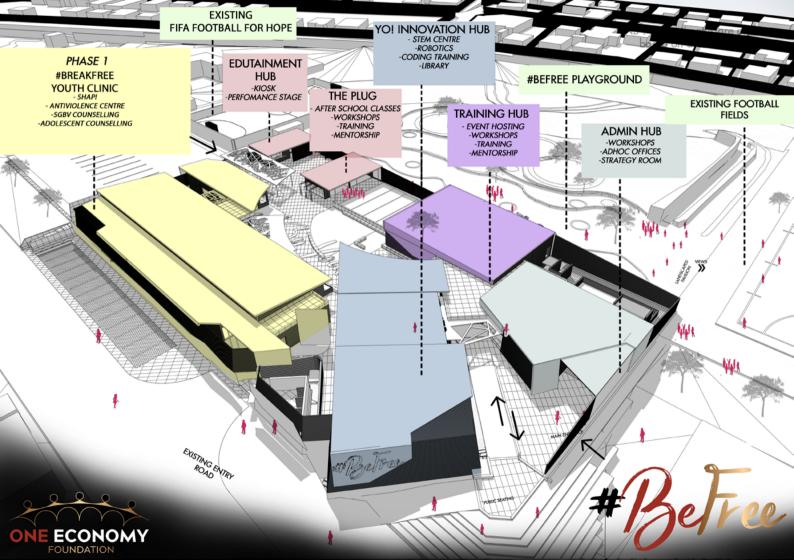
Dynamic programs hosted by the centre allow for cross polination of knowledge and different entry points for each individual



Connection To Surroundings

The formation of Hubs creates protection for the centre whilst still allowing connection with surroundings.













#BREAK YOUTH CLINIC











#poweredbytheyouth
Email: admine 1 economy.org , projectbefree@1 economy.org
Postal Adress: PO Box 463 , Windhoek, Namibia
Tel: 0612707806

